

Wilmington

Town Crier



67TH YEAR NO. 4

PHONE 978-658-2346

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www.HomeNewsHere.com

20 PAGES

Board of Selectmen receive health update on COVID-19

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The first item for the Board of Selectmen on Monday night was the regular COVID-19 update from Board of Health Director Shelly Newhouse and Fire Chief Bill Cavanaugh. The board welcomed them with appreciation and thanks for all of the health, fire, and police department's efforts.

Newhouse reported for

the first time in months that the town's numbers are trending down. The positives, she shared, totaled 164, which is down more than 100 from the week before at 286. They were almost evenly split between 0-18, 19-31, 31-50 and 51-65. She said she hopes that the decrease will continue as residents wear masks, social distance, and follow other state guidance.

She also talked about the vaccine after Gover-

nor Charlie Baker announced the upcoming start of phase two earlier that day.

"Hopefully I'll start receiving it next week... I'm still in phase one," she said.

Once she finishes with first responders, congregate care settings, home-based healthcare workers, COVID and non-COVID facing healthcare workers, and long term care facilities, she'll be able to start with resi-

dents aged 75 and older. She also mentioned other vaccine sites like Gillette Stadium, Fenway Park, and the Doubletree in Danvers.

Clinic sign-ups for the vaccine will be online on a first come, first serve basis. She later added that anyone who can't go online may call the senior center to sign up. She said the available times will be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, starting 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

and increasing as she gets more vaccines. They'll be held in the Shriner's auditorium. After registration, residents will sit down at one of the seven stations and be attended to by a nurse and a scribe. Someone will also walk around to monitor them for 15 to 30 minutes before they leave.

Furthermore, she included that during the short monitoring period after receiving the first dose, residents can sign up for

their second dose.

Selectman Greg Bendel said, "It's important that we get that message out there... it will be fairly quick and painless, and we want people to be comfortable."

Gary DePalma asked if there are enough volunteers, and Newhouse said that she hopes so, but she's not ready for them yet.

Selectman Jomarie O'Ma-

COVID | PAGE A8W

Ragsdale, Byrne Only two candidates pull nomination papers so far

By CASEY STEVENSON
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The Wilmington town election creeps ever closer, and election papers are beginning to be pulled.

As of this week, the first and only two election nomination papers that were pulled were for the two open School Committee seats.

Incumbents David Ragsdale and MJ Byrne, with their nomination papers now pulled, are officially running for re-election and are the only candidates in the race thus far.

The Wilmington Town Clerk, Christine R. Touma-Conway, Esq. was kind enough to provide the *Town Crier* with important dates for the upcoming election. According to the calendar:

The last day to submit nomination papers is on Friday, March 5.

Friday, March 19 will be the last day for the Registrars of Voters to complete signature certification.

Monday, March 22, will be the last day for candidates to withdraw their nomination, as the list of candidates will be posted.

Monday, April 5 will be the last day to register to vote in order to participate in this upcoming election.

Friday, April 16 will be the last day to post an election warrant.

And finally, Saturday, April 24 will be the annual town election, with polling stations open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

As a reminder, any citizen interested in running for the positions open on the School Committee, Wilmington Housing Authority, Board of Selectmen, Shawsheen Technical High School Committee, or Town Moderator should contact the Town Clerk for nomination papers.

As the days count down to the 24th of April, it is important to remember to stay informed on the candidates and on local happenings, and to register to vote if you have not done so already and are eligible to vote on April 24.

HomeNewsHere.com

To reach
The Town Crier
Call: 978-658-2346
Town Crier



North Wilmington enters a new era with the construction of a detox center (as the Haverhill Commuter line plows through from Boston north). (photo: BruceHilliard.com)

Residents not happy about switch to remote learning

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Residents shared their disappointment about Wilmington transitioning four schools to remote learning at the beginning of the School Committee meeting last Wednesday night. They all agreed that remote learning is insufficient and that their students are losing precious time.

The first commenter mourned for all the memories that her students won't have and suggested that remote students learn by live stream instead of having so much asynchronous time.

The second said that the superintendent's letter was divisive instead

of actionable.

"Why are those with the least amount of risk the ones getting punished the most?" the third commenter asked.

Several of the residents who commented referenced the CDC guidelines recommending schools being in-person due to low risk of transmission.

Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand responded to these comments later in the Superintendent's Report. He shared that he had sent a letter to parents and guardians with the status of the schools shifting to remote learning due to recent coronavirus cases in town: the high school, Middle School, Woburn Street School, and North Intermediate School.

"I apologize to the community if the words or sentiments included within the letter offended anybody," he said.

He established that his intention was only to bring awareness to the situation and ask for the help of the whole community to stop the spread of COVID-19.

The rest of his report pertained to an update on structured learning time, pooled testing, middle school program review, the status of sports, and registration for pre-k and kindergarten.

Brand explained that the requirements from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education required adjustments to the elementary, middle school, and

high school schedules. After only a few weeks to prepare proposed changes, Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott shared the changes that will be made starting Jan. 25 at each level.

One commonality among all grades and cohorts is that the schedule of remote and in-person days is not changing, she said. What she described is changing is that students in grades 1-5 will have a daily morning check-in (except on Wednesdays) and a 45-minute synchronous reading lesson on their remote days. These would be cohort A's Tuesdays and Fridays and cohort B's Mondays and Thursdays. Schedules for students in cohort C grades 1-8 will remain

unchanged.

Cohort A and B middle school students will also have a morning check-in excluding Wednesdays while they're remote. Another update for these students includes one synchronous remote day: Tuesday for cohort A and Thursday for cohort B. Elliott said that these students would log in virtually and participate alongside in-person students on those days.

High school students in cohorts A and B will see the most change in terms of their schedule. In addition to adding live synchronous remote instruction on Wednesday mornings, all high school cohorts will stream into

REPORT | PAGE A2W

Selectmen receive the town manager's budget proposal

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — Town Manager Jeff Hull delivered a town budget proposal for fiscal year 2022, with a grand total of \$119,852,135 at the Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday night. He shared that his goals for the budget were to increase by no more than one percent, to provide the services residents were used to, to avoid layoffs, and to invest in infrastructure and equipment.

Reaching his first goal, the increase proposed is only .46 percent from the \$119,306,362 proposed last year. He mentioned that with uncertainty, it was his desire to limit increas-

es and still balance all of the competing requests. While the budgets for areas like Wilmington Public Schools and the Shawsheen Tech are increasing, that of shared costs like insurance, interest, and statutory charges will decrease.

Some more specific items increasing will be the cost of salary adjustments and overtime, especially for the police and fire departments, and technology; versus costs for fuel, recycling, and capital going down. He also mentioned that revenue is expected to increase by \$500k with the shift of the tax levy and new growth.

The Wilmington Public Schools

BUDGET | PAGE A7W

School Committee FY22 recommended budget

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

WILMINGTON — The School Committee meeting last Wednesday night covered the fiscal year 2022 recommended budget of \$44,815,088, wherein several members of the administration spoke to the their departments' proposed budgets.

After the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Glenn Brand introduced the fiscal year 2022 budget reminding everyone of Wilmington's vision, mission, and core values. He said he hopes to return to the district's work as a cohesive whole.

Going on, he explained that the aims of the budget were to

identify fixed costs, fund legal mandates, provide special education programming, and provide whatever number of sections and staffing that enrollment projections suggested. Their projected enrollment for 2021-2022 is 3,133 students, assuming that most of those who left the district this year will return. However, he said that enrollment continues to trend downward.

A significant amount of money will be set aside in the budget for work toward the strategic plan — specifically \$75,000. Some of the actions that he mentioned this will fund are

SCHOOL | PAGE A7W

Wilmington Library News:

New reading challenges for all ages

Library Hours

The Library is open for curbside pickup only, from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Friday & Saturday. Staff is available by phone 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Friday & Saturday.

WML Virtual Programming

While the building is closed, the library continues to offer a variety for virtual events. Please note that registration is required in order to receive the Zoom link. Go to wilmingtonlibrary.org to register or call 978-658-2967.

Adult Programs

21 in '21

Reading Challenge

A challenge for readers of all ages! For two months, can you read 21 minutes a day, five days a week?

Starting on Feb. 1, log your minutes on Beanstack and earn prizes as you go!

The Remarkable Rise of Vice President Kamala Harris

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 7 p.m.

Join Dan Morain, author of the new biography, "Kamala's Way: An American Life," for a discussion of America's new Vice President, Kamala Harris. During his time as a reporter with the Los Angeles Times and editorial editor with the Sacramento Bee, Morain covered Kamala Harris's rise to power as a deputy district attorney in Alameda County to District Attorney to California Attorney General to U.S. Senator to the first Black, South Asian, and female Vice President in our country's history. Morain will be joined in conversation by Liz Goodwin, deputy bureau chief for *The Boston*

Globe in Washington, DC. Presented in collaboration with Libraries Working Towards Social Justice and the State Library of Massachusetts.

Virtual Author Talk: Dr. Robin Cook

Friday, Feb. 5, 7 p.m.

Dr. Robin Cook is the author of 37 worldwide bestsellers which have sold hundreds of millions of copies. Most of Dr. Cook's books explore various medical, ethical, and public policy issues and have included topics ranging from the supply of organs for transplantation (Coma) to medical nanotechnology (Nano) and the spread of disease (Outbreak, Contagion, Pandemic). Dr. Cook's most recent book is *Genesis*, which deals with using ancestral DNA to aid forensics.

Fiction Critique Group

Saturday, Feb. 6, 9:15 a.m.

Love writing fiction?

Whether you are drafting a short story or a novel, joining our Critique Group is a great opportunity to meet other writers and get constructive feedback in a supportive environment. Open to all experience levels writing in all genres. Led by local writing enthusiast, Barbara Alevras. If you are interested in attending this event, please email Assistant Director Charlotte Wood at cwood@wilmingtonlibrary.org

Youth Programs

1,000 Books before Kindergarten!

Did you know that hearing word and letter sounds is key to little ones' reading and speech development? Listening to books as you read together is an easy and fun way for them to

learn and makes for great bonding moments! This reading challenge is open to little ones up to age six. Log your books on Beanstack or on the form on our website to earn prizes for reading!

Preschool Storytime

Tuesday, Feb. 2, 10 a.m.

This storytime for preschoolers includes books, rhymes, and music. Ages 3-5

Time for Twos

Wednesday, Feb. 3, 10 a.m.

This storytime for two year olds includes books, rhymes, music and movement.

Baby Time

Thursday, Feb. 4, 10 a.m.

This program of songs, rhymes, games and picture books is for babies under the age of two years and their caregivers.

Library's

Digital Resources

Take advantage of the following digital resources while hunkering down and staying safe during the winter months. If you do

not have a library card, you can get one remotely by going to www.wilmingtonlibrary.org.

Overdrive (aka "Libby") app on your smartphone) Find ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and movies.

Hoopla — Find ebooks, TV shows, audiobooks and comics. Simultaneous use means titles always available.

Kanopy — Stream classic movies, indie hits, documentaries and more.

Freegal — Download and keep up to five songs per week. Stream up to three hours per day.

Tumble Book Library — Animated picture books, read-along chapter books and more for children.

Creative Bug — Find over 1000 video classes on knitting, sewing, cooking and other crafts.

Ancestry Library — Do genealogy research with this database that covers billions of records from census data to directories, and photos to family trees. Access from home is available for a limited period of time.

Supt. discusses possible pool testing initiative for k-12

REPORT FROM PAGE 1

their in-person classes on remote days. This means that while cohort A is in person, cohorts B and C will stream; and cohorts A and C will stream while B is in person.

Elliott said that starting Jan. 25 or whenever hybrid learning resumes, the average synchronous time per 10 days for the entire district would be 37 hours. "We anticipate that there will be challenges during the implementation process."

School Committee member David Ragsdale agreed that the start of these changes will be rocky and they'll have to fill in the holes as they go.

M. J. Byrnes asked how much synchronous time cohort C students currently get. Elliott answered the recommended time is for them to get 40 hours of synchronous time over two

weeks, but Wilmington's remote students get well over that and have almost all synchronous time.

Byrnes commended teachers for trying alternative and creative ways to get students to engage and show up every morning for these new check-ins.

"We also contemplated that this could be a flexible time used for reading intervention or meeting with a counselor," Ragsdale said. Elliott mentioned that some services are already scheduled for students during that time.

Jo Newhouse wondered why streaming live wasn't considered at all grade levels. Elliott said that the reason has to do with screen time.

"We felt that this was the most developmentally appropriate and the least disruptive to the cohort schedules," she continued.

Ragsdale went on to say that reading was identified as a promising way to increase synchronous time, with which Elliott agreed.

Jenn Bryson asked if an effort has been made to

minimize homework this year.

"If they're online for such long hours, maybe they shouldn't get too much work keeping them online for longer," she suggested.

Elliott said that the rule of thumb has been not to assign homework as busywork, but acceptable homework ideas are assigned reading or small pieces of projects.

Bryson also encouraged parents to keep communication with their student's teachers open.

She noted, "There's not as much time to complete their work if they're streaming."

Brand then mentioned a possible pooled testing initiative for grades k-12, the cost of which he questioned. He asked for volunteers for the review of the middle school program from the community.

Finally, regarding pre-k and kindergarten registration for 2021-2022, he said that it will be pushed back to late March with the hope that there will be more clarity about what the next school year will look like.

Wilmington

Two students named to Dean's List at Assumption

WORCESTER — Assumption University has announced those students named to the University's Dean's List for the fall 2020 semester. Students must achieve a grade point average of 3.5 for a five-class, 15-credit semester to be included on the prestigious list, which is announced at the completion of the fall and spring semesters. Due to the pandemic, this fall semester was divided into two accelerated seven-week terms.

Local students include:

- Isabella Granara of Wilmington, Class of 2022
 - Brandon Cheng of Wilmington, Class of 2023
- "This semester, our students faced unprecedented challenges due to the global pandemic," said Francesco C. Cesario, Ph.D., president of Assumption College. "Following a rapid transition to remote learning, students adapted to the new form of education delivery amid difficult circumstances. The Assumption

community is proud of these students who, despite the distractions of the COVID-19 situation, were able to remain focused and maintain a commitment to their academic programs."

An Assumption education prepares students to succeed in a continuously changing world and for jobs that do not yet exist. Steeped in the liberal arts tradition, students studying at Assumption are exposed to a broad range of disciplines in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences as they explore fundamental questions characteristic of the liberal arts, while also learning best-practices and developing valuable communication and critical-thinking skills, traits sought after by employers in nearly every industry.

A combination of classroom theory and hands-on learning through internships, participation in community service, or one of the more than 60

on-campus clubs and organizations help students develop into leaders who will make a difference in the communities in which they live and work.

For more information, visit assumption.edu.

Assumption University, founded in 1904 by the Augustinians of the Assumption, is New England's premier university for high-quality education, integrating career preparation and education of the whole person, drawing upon the best in the rich and centuries-long tradition of Catholic higher education. Assumption, located in Worcester, Massachusetts, seeks to provide students with a transformative education that forms graduates who possess critical intelligence, thoughtful citizenship, and compassionate service.

For more information about Assumption University, please visit www.assumption.edu.

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Tewksbury, Wilmington libraries to host author Robin Cook on Feb. 5

TEWKSBURY — The Tewksbury Public Library and Wilmington Memorial Library have joined forces to host bestselling author Robin Cook in conversation with Hank Phillippi Ryan on Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 at 7 p.m.

Cook will discuss his acclaimed writing career, including his latest book — "Genesis" — in this Crowdcast webinar.

Space is limited. Registration is required and can be found at www.tinyurl.com/RobinandHank. While this virtual event is completely free, attendees can purchase an autographed copy of the book to be shipped to their homes from the event's bookstore partner — Haley Booksellers — before or after the event.

Dr. Robin Cook is the author of 37 worldwide bestsellers which have sold hundreds of millions of copies. Most of Dr. Cook's books explore various medical, ethical, and public policy issues and have included topics ranging from the supply of organs for transplantation ("Coma") to medical nanotechnology ("Nano") and the spread of disease ("Outbreak," "Contagion," "Pandemic").

Dr. Cook's most recent book is "Genesis," which deals with using ancestral DNA to aid forensics. There have also been almost a dozen theatrical movies, television movies, and mini-series made from Dr. Cook's work.

Recognition of Dr. Cook's work includes a 1982 Dis-

tinguished Alumni Award and the 2012 James McConaughy Award, both given by his alma mater Wesleyan University, the 2002 Author of Vision Award given by the RP International, and the 2014 Literary Legend Award given by the Florida Heritage Book Festival.

In 2014, he was also the recipient of the first annual Robert B. Parker mystery writer's award. In 2004 he was appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, D.C. by President George W. Bush.

Dr. Cook divides his time between his home base in Naples, Florida, Waterville Valley, New Hampshire, Martha's Vineyard in the summer, and Boston. This event is sponsored

by a collection of North of Boston libraries, including the Memorial Hall Library in Andover, Billerica Public Library, Flint Memorial Library in North Reading, Tewksbury Public Library, Wilmington Memorial Library, and Woburn Public Library, plus some additional Massachusetts libraries.

This event is a part of a series of virtual discussions with bestselling authors held this winter. The next event in the series features a discussion with former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich about his new book, "The System: Who Rigged It, How We Fix It," in conversation with Christopher Lydon, host of WBUR's Open Source podcast, on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021 at 7 p.m.

News and notes from WCTV

Hello friends and neighbors! Here's what's going on at WCTV!

WILDCAT SPORTS!

Girls Basketball vs. Melrose: Saturday, Jan. 30 at 1 p.m. (LIVE) WCTV Main Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9.

Boys Basketball vs. Waverly: Saturday, Feb. 6 at 1 p.m. (LIVE) WCTV Main Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9.

WCTV and The Wilmington Memorial

Library present:

The Last Duo: Guitarists and vocalists Dan Sirois and Greg Decoteau bring a full and exciting sound to the music of the 60's and 70's including songs by the Eagles, America, Van Morrison, the Beatles and more. Don't miss this exciting concert from the comfort of your home! View on line at WCTV.org Video on Demand.

UPCOMING MEETINGS COVERED BY WCTV:

Finance Committee: Tuesday, Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. (LIVE) WCTV Meetings channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 22.

Conservation Commission: Wednesday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. (LIVE) WCTV Meetings channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 22.

Finance Committee: Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. (LIVE) WCTV Meetings channel: Verizon 38, Comcast 22.

WCTV is located at: 10 Waltham St., Wilmington Office Hours by Appointment: (978) 657-4066

Questions about WCTV? Contact info@wctv.org

WCTV Channels:

Public Channel: Verizon 37, Comcast 9
Meetings & Government: Verizon 38, Comcast 22
Access: Verizon 39, Comcast 99

To watch programs On-Demand or for more information check us out at WCTV.org

Follow us on Facebook: Wilmington Community Television

It's Your Money
by Todd Brisbois

LOWERING AGI THIS YEAR CAN HELP TAXPAYERS WHEN THEY FILE NEXT YEAR

A taxpayer's adjusted gross income is one factor that determines how much tax they owe. Taxpayers who plan today can lower their AGI.

Here are a couple things taxpayers can do now to lower their AGI:

Know how adjusted gross income affects taxes

A taxpayer's AGI and tax rate are important factors in figuring their taxes. AGI is their income from all sources minus any adjustments or deductions to their income. Generally, the higher the AGI, the higher their tax rate, and the more tax they pay. Tax planning can include making changes during the year that can lower a taxpayer's AGI. The taxpayer could:

- Contribute to a Health Savings Account
- Claim educator expenses if they're a qualifying educator
- Pay student loan interest
- Save for retirement: contributing money to a retirement plan at work like a 401(k) plan, a traditional IRA plan or a self-employed SEP, SIMPLE, or other qualified plans are all retirement options that can lower AGI.

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Paid family and medical leave benefit program launches for eligible workers in Massachusetts

BOSTON — The Department of Family and Medical Leave (DFML) announced that workers eligible for Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) may begin filing certain benefit requests on Jan. 1, 2021, in accordance with legislation enacted in 2018.

PFML provides temporary income replacement to eligible workers. Starting January 1, 2021, workers can apply for leave for welcoming a new child into their family, for their own serious health condition, and for certain military considerations. Starting July 1, 2021, workers can apply for leave to care for an ill or ailing relative.

The program, which is offered separately from the federal Family and Medical Leave Act and any employer-offered leave, provides up to 20 weeks of paid leave per benefit year to manage a serious personal health condition, up to 12 weeks to care for a family member or to bond with a child, and up to 26 weeks to care for a family member who is a member of the armed service.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2021, Massachusetts workers can apply for:

Medical leave due to their own serious health condition. Workers may take up to 20 weeks per year of paid leave to manage a serious health condition.

Family leave to bond with a child. Family leave can be taken by a parent or legal guardian to bond with a child during the first 12 months after the child's birth, adoption, or foster care placement. Eligibility for family leave used for bonding with a child is limited to the child's parents or legal guardians, although certain other family members may be eligible to take family leave for caring for a child that has a serious medical condition. Workers who are parents or legal guardians may take up to 12 weeks of family leave to bond with a child. The annual 12-week maximum remains the same even if multiple childbirths, adoptions, or foster care placements occur in the same year.

Family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition that relates to military service. Workers may take up to 26 weeks of family

leave per year to care for a family member who is a current member of the Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves, and who is:

Undergoing medical treatment, recuperation, or therapy for a serious health condition that was received or aggravated while the patient was deployed in a foreign country. Being treated as an outpatient for a serious health condition that was received or aggravated while they were deployed in a foreign country.

On the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness that happened while deployed in a foreign country.

On the temporary disability retired list for a serious injury or illness that existed before the beginning of the member's active duty and was aggravated by service while deployed in a foreign country.

Family leave to manage any needs that occur immediately after a family member is deployed in a foreign country or has been notified of an upcoming deployment in a foreign country. Workers may take up to 12 weeks of family leave per year to manage needs which may include:

Caring for a deployed family member's child or other family member immediately before their deployment.

Making financial or legal arrangements for deployed family member.

Attending counseling.

Attending military events or ceremonies.

Spending time with a deployed family member during a rest or recuperation period.

Spending time with a family member when they return from deployment.

Making necessary arrangements following the death of a family member who had been deployed.

Beginning July 1, 2021, Massachusetts workers can apply for:

Care for a family member with a serious health condition. Workers may take up to 12 weeks of family leave per year to care for a family member with a serious health condition. For the purposes of family leave used to care for a family member, family members include spouses,

domestic partners, children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents or siblings; spouses' or domestic partners' parents; and guardians who legally acted as a parent when the worker is a minor. Workers can take paid family leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition regardless of where the family member resides.

How to Apply for Paid Family and Medical Leave at paidleave.mass.gov

Timing

Workers should give their employers at least 30 days notice before beginning their application for paid leave. Applications for future paid leave may be made up to 60 calendar days in advance of the anticipated start date. Unplanned leave due to an emergency can be applied for retroactively up to 90 calendar days after a worker has taken time off from the job. Workers should make every effort to schedule their leave for a time that will not disrupt the employer's business.

Documentation

Workers will need to provide or fill out the following documents as part of the leave application process:

Proof of Identity. This is to double-check that worker is eligible, and make sure the benefits are sent to the correct person.

Certification of a Serious Health Condition form. This may be done in conjunction with a worker's healthcare provider. Workers applying for family leave to bond with a child, or family leave to manage family affairs when a family member is deployed in a foreign country, do not need to fill out a Certification of a Serious Health Condition form.

Current employer's Federal Employment Identification Number (FEIN)

A date when the worker informed the employer that he or she planned to apply for and take family or medical leave. (Workers filing for paid leave from multiple employers will need to fill out a separate application for each individual employer).

Benefit and Claim Information

Workers may not be paid

wages or salary or use paid sick or vacation time or other earned time off that covers the same period for which the worker receives PFML benefits. Additionally, the amount a worker receives in paid leave benefits and the total amount of leave he or she is eligible for may be reduced by any wage replacement or disability program the worker is enrolled in or has used in the past, either through the government or through the employer. These include:

Unemployment insurance. Worker's compensation. Social security.

Temporary disability or paid family and medical leave benefits.

Claim to Payment
Estimated Timeline
Worker completes Application on DFML website

(20 minutes-1 hour).

Employer responds to DFML's Request for Information (1-10 business days). (It is in the worker's best interest to let the employer know that he or she is completing the application because it may speed up the process.) Employers have 10 business days to respond but may respond sooner.

DFML reviews Application and makes claim determination (7-14 calendar days). Timelines are subject to the volume of claims received.

DFML issues Payment to Worker (8-10 days after application review). It takes 3-5 days for the vendor to be established in MMARS for the first payment, then another 5 days for the payment to be received. Timelines may differ based on the payment method selected by the ap-

plicant. Direct deposit is the quickest payment option.

Employer participation in the claim approval process is important to ensure DFML has accurate and complete information about the application. Employers may recommend to the DFML that a claim be rejected if an employee has already used the maximum amount of leave for the year or that information from the claim is missing, incorrect or fraudulent. Employers may not recommend a claim be denied because of budgetary, timing, or other circumstantial reasons.

For more information about eligibility, benefits, and how to apply, go to mass.gov/pfml. For multilingual support or if you have specific questions, call the PFML Contact Center at 1(833)344-7365.

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Bray named to President's List at Bentley University

WALTHAM — Sara Bray is a senior at Bentley University. This is her 3rd semester in a row on the President's List. She is a 2017 graduate of Austin

Prep and lives in Wilmington.

The President's List is the highest distinction Bentley confers for academic excellence in a sin-

gle semester. Students must achieve a 3.7 grade point average with no grade below 3.0 to earn a place on the President's List

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Rep. Moulton backs new ALS legislation

DANVERS — Before its adjournment to make way for the new U.S. Congress, one of the final statutory acts of the 116th Congress was to push through a legislative initiative that launched four years ago in the living room of the late ALS advocate and St. John's Prep graduate Pete Frates' family home.

The ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, signed into law last month, ensures that those diagnosed with the degenerative nerve disease can receive Social Security Insurance benefits immediately, without having to endure a five-month waiting period. Under previous rules, individuals faced that delay before their benefit payments could start, even after becoming disabled.

"When our son Peter was diagnosed with ALS in 2012, there were so many aspects of the fight against the disease that needed to be addressed and rectified," said Nancy Frates of the need for the new law that her son backed until his death in December of 2019. "The waiting period was meant to guard against a patient getting better and going back to work, which demonstrated a total absence of knowledge about the disease. Along with Congressman Seth Moulton, Peter decided to shine a light on this cruel legislation with a bill to waive the wait. His focus and determination to right the many challenges in the ALS community were sharpened on the athletic fields and inside the school community at St. John's. We are honored that the collective push by patients, advocates, families, and legislators made this one-time dream a reality."

Frates, who sparked a cultural phenomenon by popularizing the Ice Bucket Challenge, died 19 days shy of his 35th birthday. The

Beverly native was a 2003 graduate of St. John's. Frates launched a campaign that went viral on social media during the summer of 2014, inspiring unprecedented fundraising in search of a cure for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a progressive neurodegenerative disease also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Multiple charitable initiatives in association with "Team Frate Train" and Pete Frates #3 have raised more than \$220 million worldwide.

U.S. Rep Seth Moulton (D-MA) of Salem called the measure "incredibly important for patients and families across the United States" at a press conference with Frates detailing the proposed law on March 4, 2017. The legislation ultimately enjoyed bipartisan support, with U.S. Rep Peter King (R-NY) signing on as Moulton's co-sponsor, while U.S. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and U.S. Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR) partnered on the Senate version.

ALS progresses at different rates for each patient. Consequently, the prior five-month waiting period often delayed access to critical financial resources for already-symptomatic patients unable to maintain employer-based health insurance. The average duration from ALS diagnosis to death is between two and five years.

"(This) is a win for my friend, Pete Frates, and every brave American who refuses to be silenced by ALS," Moulton said in a statement. "Nobody with ALS should have to wait for benefits that will help prolong their lives and help their families focus on what matters. It has taken a long time to get this bill across the finish line, but I'm so proud that we got this done."

Capitol rampage, an insult to democracy and our people

By PAUL J. ANDREWS
andrews@massupt.org
Mass. Ass'n. of School Superintendents
Member of Board of Winchester Hospital

Americans can breathe easier today as the pressure cooker atmosphere in Washington is decreasing as the United States Capitol and the honorable majority of occupants of the building are able to see the national Congressional site they love and work to be repaired. Also, we have witnessed a very different Presidential Inauguration that went along in a guarded atmosphere that will be the column topic next week.

News photos and videos of the scene of the insurrection are continual reminders of this awful incredible afternoon and early evening but for those inside the Capitol the mental anguish has left an indelible stain on the minds and hearts of the officials and staff who occupy that very special building. For most Americans who follow the news,

the comments were often heard about why there were not more defenses in place in security staff and equipment that awful afternoon when tragedy struck the Capitol.

From my perspective, I have not heard any strong reasons as to why such defenses were not in place other than reported calls to agencies in DC for more support and people power that went unanswered until early evening for a mid-afternoon event outside and inside the Capitol. With that said, I am almost certain that we will find out the truth about this but long after the damage (physically and mentally) has been done.

Testing focus still important

For some reason there seems to be a drop off of area residents seeking tests on their COVID-19 status but alarm bells are going off on this issue as nothing has changed in terms of the deadly virus. We also have seen that the State House officials seem to be rolling

back some of the timelines in terms of several facilities able to stay open a bit longer.

News sources this weekend have also seen criticism of this perceived relaxation of the guidelines, pointing out that this should not be the case until the numbers reflect more of the population being vaccinated and the local virus count showing much more of a reduction than is the situation at the current time.

Again, a great credit to all officials in Town Crier land for providing the testing programs and staffing over this incredibly difficult period.

Some final comments

Some of the recent Morning Pulse extractions you seem to enjoy begin with the following: Farm Bureau gives more than \$5 million to support local communities during COVID-19; Wanted: A farmer-successful organic farm in western Pa. is closing because no one wants to run it; Americans need to do a much better job of

learning about financial planning; The next zoom wants to be nothing like the current Zoom; Pensions should follow you from job to job; Consumer price index seen rising in December; Gold prices drop over four percent for biggest one day loss since November; Small business owners start 2021 amid uncertainty; For bankers, 2020 was a bad year to have a good year; January is the new December for charitable contributions: How to donate and spend with impact; Low housing interest rates make for a buyer's market; Cash grants have a huge impact in a crisis; Companies expect corporate giving to hold, increase for some in 2021; Stay mentally sharp as you age through exercise and a lively social life; Noise may up the chance of Alzheimer's disease and Breakthrough medical devices to receive medicare coverage.

NOTE: Feel free to send your suggestions or comments to andrews@massupt.org



▲A tireless advocate for ALS awareness and philanthropic efforts to support research for a cure, the late Pete Frates was a driving force behind ALS Disability Insurance Access Act, which recently became law. The St. John's Prep graduate participated in the Ice Bucket Challenge at Fenway Park in August 2014 accompanied by his brother, Andrew (kneeling), along with (second row, left to right) his wife Julie, mother Nancy, father John, daughter Lucy, and sister Jenn, as well as (background) Red Sox mascot Wally the Green Monster and then-Boston manager John Farrell.

Designated H.R. 1407 when Moulton introduced it in the House, the ALS Disability Insurance Access Act of 2019 began its bicameral journey on Feb. 22 of that year. The Senate Finance Committee discharged that body's companion measure

(S.578) to the chamber for consideration on Dec. 2 of last year; it passed the same day. The full House signed off on the Senate version Dec. 8 and the bill became Public Law No. 116-250 on Dec. 22.

"The passage of the ALS

Disability Insurance Access Act (exemplifies) the resounding hope of the ALS community coming together in a united effort to make change," said Danielle Carnival, CEO of I AM ALS, in a release by Moulton's office. "The com-

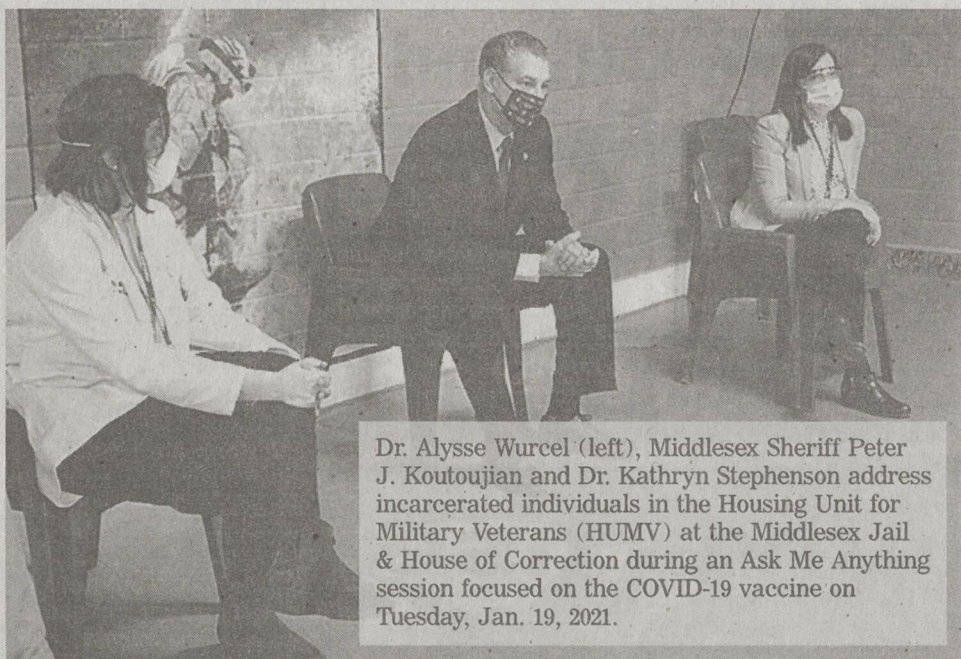
munity — its fierce advocates — drove this progress forward and we will forever applaud their tenacity to change the course of history for those now and in future generations (by making) a real impact for people living with ALS."

Middlesex Sheriff's Office holds Ask Me Anything session regarding vaccine

BILLERICA — With COVID-19 vaccinations set to soon begin at the Mid-

dlesex Jail & House of Correction, incarcerated individuals had an opportuni-

ty today to ask questions of infectious diseases doc-



Dr. Alyse Wurcel (left), Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Dr. Kathryn Stephenson address incarcerated individuals in the Housing Unit for Military Veterans (HUMV) at the Middlesex Jail & House of Correction during an Ask Me Anything session focused on the COVID-19 vaccine on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021.

Middlesex Sheriff Peter J. Koutoujian and Doctors Alyse Wurcel (Tufts Medical Center) and Kathryn Stephenson (Harvard University) addressed incarcerated individuals and took questions during Ask Me Anything (AMA) sessions on Tuesday, Jan. 19. The questions asked — combined with feedback from a baseline survey conducted earlier this month — will be used to construct FAQ sheets and an informational video to be available throughout the facility.

Results of the baseline survey released last week showed that approximately 40 percent of incarcerated respondents indicated they would want to receive the vaccine.

"Today's sessions were

an incredible opportunity for some of those in our custody to ask the experts questions about the vaccine," said Sheriff Koutoujian. "It was abundantly clear from listening to the questions posed by the individuals that we met with today, that there is a great amount of interest in the vaccine. And while some have already made the decision to be vaccinated, even more are open to doing so."

Questions asked today focused on a variety of topics including the development timeline, whether any immunity is garnered from

the first shot, as well as whether individuals should continue to wear masks after being vaccinated.

Under the Commonwealth's vaccination plan, those living and working in congregate settings (including jails) may begin to be vaccinated this week.

To date, the MSO has gone nearly four months without a positive COVID-19 test despite conducting over 160 tests amongst its incarcerated population during that timeframe.

To learn more about the MSO's COVID-19 response, please visit middlesexsheriff.org/covid19.

Book Stew Review

'Ask Again, Yes' by Mary Beth Keane

By EILEEN MACDOUGALL

One of those novels you just fall into immediately, this one centers around

two families of NYPD officers who leave the city for the suburbs and end up as next door neighbors, with remarkable and disastrous consequences.

Irish immigrant Francis Gleeson and his wife Lena have three daughters; Brian Stanhope and his wife Anne have a son, Peter. Peter and the youngest Gleeson daughter, Kate, are bound together from childhood — spoken favorite of her father, and he, a prisoner of his mentally ill mother's struggles and his father's neglect.

When they are in high school, Anne precipitates

a violent incident between the neighbors, and Peter is abruptly cut off from his ally Kate, his father, and his mother, but is rescued by his loving uncle George, the hero of the tale.

Later, when Peter and Kate reunite and marry, they endure struggles of their own. There's nothing here that doesn't or couldn't happen on your own block, which is a great part of the novel's appeal. It is told in straightforward fashion, primarily by Peter, Lena, and Francis, and when Anne's missing voice enters, a circle is closed.

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Letters must be e-mailed by noon on Monday in order for consideration the same week's edition.

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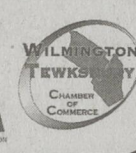
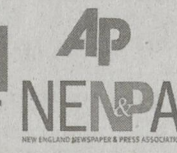
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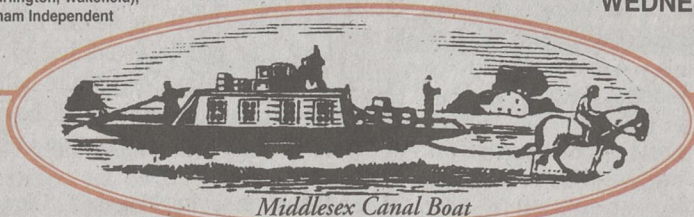
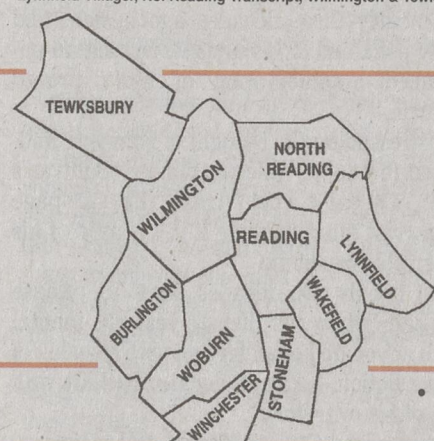
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Tim O'Leary shares his new story Former Stoneham Rep. pens whodunit novel

By PAT BLAIS

Former State Rep. Tim O'Leary would spurn any hero references, but a recent review of his new whodunit novel could just as aptly be summarizing the Wakefield resident's story since his political collapse back in the early 1990s.

"The hero is flawed - and that is just a fact. No apologies, just a guy moving forward and taking advantage of his second chances," wrote an anonymous Amazon reviewer in an online synopsis of Connor MacNeil, the fictional protagonist in O'Leary's second political thriller, "Robes".

A four-year state representative for citizens in Stoneham and Melrose before his conviction in 1991 on embezzlement, perjury, and campaign finance law violations, O'Leary isn't one to shy from his past.

And though recoiling at the idea of his story being one of redemption, his newest venture as a mystery writer is all about taking advantage of the multitude of second chances given by those closest to him.

"I don't feel like I've done anything to redeem myself. It was the people around me who helped me get here," the Wake-

field resident said matter-of-factly of his long path towards rehabilitation.

"I think of my wife, [Patricia O'Leary]. She could have easily said, 'You're out of here,'" the one-time Melrose alderman continued. "I think of guys like Bernie Carey, [the executive director for the Mass. Association for Mental Health]. He hired me [back in 1992], even knowing that I had gone off to the Billerica House of Corrections...So my road back was made so much easier through the loyalty of my family and the kindness of other people."

O'Leary's newest novel, "Robes", picks up on the adventures of protagonist Connor MacNeil, who was first featured in his debut 2011 political intrigue, "The Day Job".

Again drawing on his own experiences, particularly the emotions and warped thinking around his own secretive and futile efforts to cover up his own misdeeds decades earlier, O'Leary said his newest work of fiction aims to illustrate that "robbers neither make judges just, nor priests devout. They are garments signifying a profession, and can be used to hide who and what the wearer

is."

In the mystery, after a controversial judge is found murdered, the protagonist is unwittingly pulled into a case reaching from the chambers of the Massachusetts Supreme Court, to the offices of the Archbishop of Boston, and to a mob boss in the back room of an auto body shop.

"It's the same main character and I repeat that backstory," explained O'Leary. "I use my knowledge about the statehouse and about how things work there. Robes is a little different though, because I get into the church and the mob."

"The Day Job" kind of wrote itself. But this one was much tougher," added the author, whose sequel touches upon money laundering and the criminal underworld. "My wife and I took several day trips to scout locations for critical scenes. One was the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in Concord, and another was to the historic district in New Bedford."

A great fall and rebound
A Watertown native who obtained his undergraduate and law degrees from Boston

College, O'Leary attributes his rise in Massachusetts politics to his wife's impulse to settle down close to her hometown of Malden.

So it was that after spending two years in California working on criminal appeals' cases for the Golden State's attorney general, O'Leary and his spouse were both attracted to a modest home in Melrose in 1972.

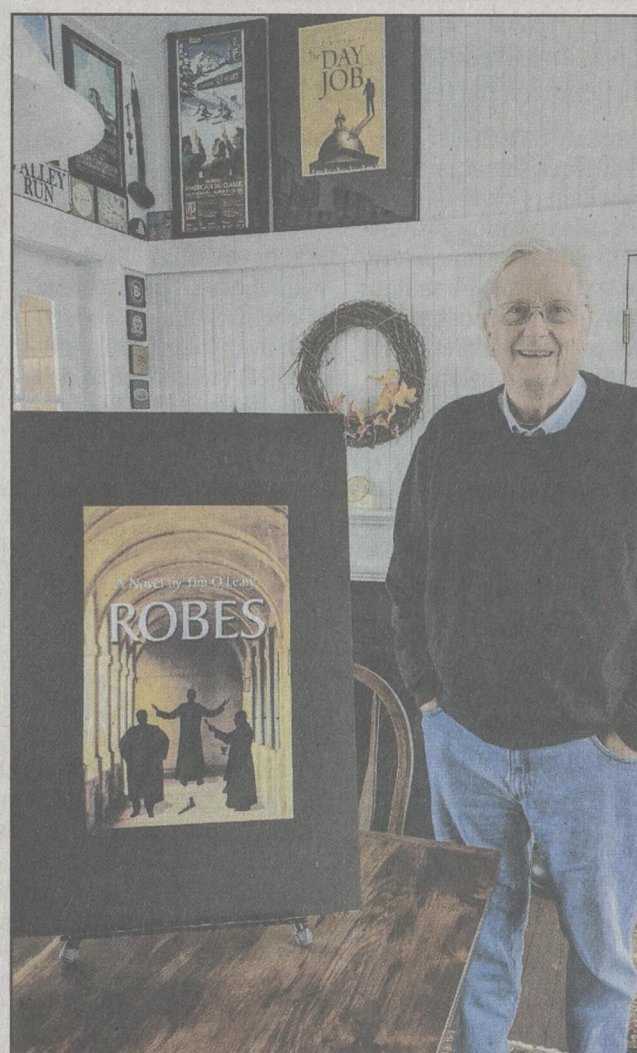
Soon after employed as an administrative division lawyer for former Mass. Attorney General Bob Quinn, the young O'Leary found himself in 1974 stumping on the gubernatorial campaign trail for his old boss.

Though Quinn ultimately lost the race to former Mass. Governor Michael Dukakis, O'Leary's own star was on the rise in Melrose, where political pundits took note of the attorney's affable personality.

Eventually, the lawyer, whose political rolodex filled out even more after he accepted a job at UMass's general counsel's office, would become an alderman in Melrose for two terms.

Then in 1987, he was elected as state representative. It was a role that O'Leary relished so much, he soon began neglecting his own law practice as the bills began stacking up.

With his mortgage company sending foreclosure notices, the new statehouse politician in a panic turned to one of his few law firm client's escrow accounts.



TIM O'LEARY OF WAKEFIELD, FORMER STATE REPRESENTATIVE for Stoneham and Melrose, talks about his life and new novel.

"I was so addicted to being a state rep. that I paid no attention to my law practice and wasn't making the money I needed for living expenses," recalled O'Leary.

"I hate to use that word [addicted], because it sounds like I'm making excuses, but I was just so wrapped up in it," he later said. "Nobody else did this to me. I did it. And I'm always very weary when I talk about my story that people will think I'm making excuses...I'm not. I went to jail and I deserved it," he elaborated.

That terrible momentary lapse in judgement resulted in a nightmarish years-long scramble to cover-up the improper use of clients' home closing payments and the misuse of political campaign funds.

Estimating that he used at least \$30,000 in campaign contributions to pay for personal expenses and cover the trail from his illicit use of legal accounts, all the while the state representative's personal finances...

O'Leary TO B-2

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Movie Reviews & Box Office News In 'The White Tiger,' an epic for modern-day India

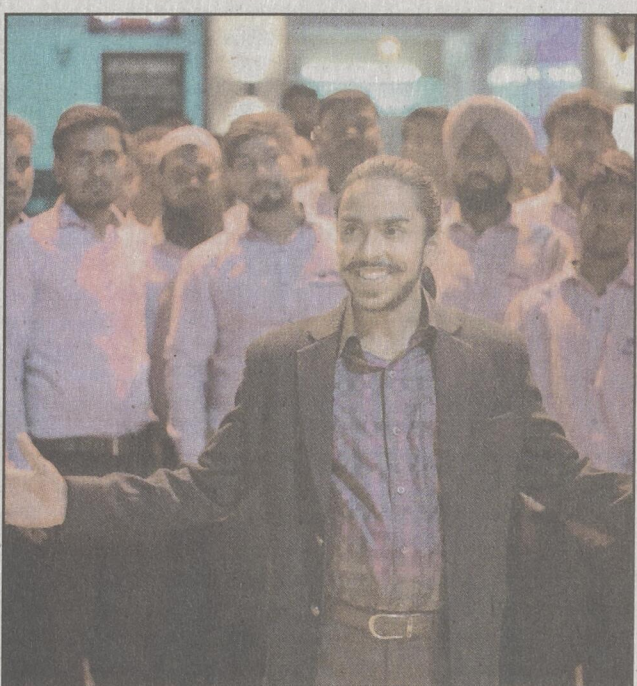
By JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Ramin Bahrani, the Iranian-American filmmaker, started out small, with the simple story of a pushcart vendor, a Pakistani immigrant selling coffee and doughnuts in New York, in 2005's "Man Push Cart." In the years since, his films have steadily grown in scale and melodrama, but they've stayed resolutely within the gap separating rich and poor.

Bahrani's last film, 2014's "99 Homes" — a movie dedicated to Roger Ebert, who championed Bahrani's early work — plunged into the heart of the Great Recession in a damning economic parable of foreclosure in Florida, with a titanic performance by Michael Shannon as a predatory real-estate broker. Bahrani's latest, the India-set "The White Tiger," is a step higher, still, in scope and vigor.

"The White Tiger," which debuts Friday on Netflix, is the kind of widescreen epic of class struggle about an ambitious, cunning climber that has long been a rich domain of movies. Bahrani may have begun as a neorealist but "The White Tiger" finds him reaching for the operatic heights of "Goodfellas."

He doesn't get there. But



EYE OF THE TIGER - Adarsh Gourav as Balram in a scene from the Netflix release "The White Tiger." Filmmaker Bahrani, with Paolo Carnera's vivid cinematography, builds a dense, incisive film that nevertheless feels uneven in structure.

(Tejinder Singh Khamkha/Netflix via AP)

"The White Tiger," about a cated to Bahrani. We first loyal chauffeur to a corrupt meet Balram Halwai (Adarsh Gourav), as he sits in regal costume, in the back of a car speeding through Delhi in 2007 on a joyride cut short when a child walks into the road. It's a misleading opening; Balram is the driver, and we'll later learn it's his boss, Adiga's 2008 Booker Prize-winning novel, a book that — since Bahrani and Adiga are longtime friends — was dedi-

Movie TO B-2

HomeNewsHere RECIPE

BEAN AND VEGGIE WRAPS



IT'S A WRAP - Black beans, mushrooms, spinach leaves and Cheddar cheese find themselves tasty and nutrient-rich partners in this quick wrap sandwich.

STEPS

1. Heat tortillas as directed on package.
2. Meanwhile, spray 10-inch skillet with cooking spray; heat over medium heat. Cook mushrooms and onion in skillet about 4 minutes, stirring frequently, until onion is crisp-tender. Stir in beans;

heat through. Stir in spinach; remove from heat.

3. Divide bean mixture among tortillas. Sprinkle with cheese. Fold one end of each tortilla up about 1 inch over filling; fold right and left sides over folded end, overlapping. Fold remaining end down.

Ingredients

- 4 fat-free flour tortillas (6 to 8 inch)
- 2 cups sliced fresh mushrooms (5 oz)
- 1 medium onion, cut lengthwise in half, then cut crosswise into thin slices
- 1 can (15 oz) black beans, drained, rinsed
- 4 cups fresh spinach leaves
- 1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat Cheddar cheese (2 oz)

EXPERT TIPS

Check the nutrient tally on this sandwich and receive a pleasant report.

Prewashed spinach sold in bags in your supermarket's produce department makes this wrap super easy.

Movie

from page B-1

wife, Pinky (Priyanka Chopra Jonas) in the front seat.

Bahrani will return to this moment but not before a lengthy flashback that runs at least half of the film. Balram comes from the poor village of Laxmangarh, where his prospects are dim. With an ingratiating smile and some pandering, he convinces a wealthy landlord known as the Stork (Mahesh Manjrekar) to take him on as a driver. Balram narrates along the way, sharing his strategy for advancement while selling his story as reflecting a much-needed rebellion for India's millions of poor. They are psychologically locked in a rooster coop, he says, too timid to rebel despite knowing their fate.

"Don't believe for a second there's a million-rupee game

show you can win to get out of it," says Balram.

It's a pointed jab at the best picture-winning "Slumdog Millionaire," a movie that — like "The White Tiger" — cast a bright spotlight on India's underclass, but one that offered a more fantastical vision of escape. "The White Tiger," it could be argued, isn't so different as an against-the-odds success story. If "Slumdog" gave us the musical version of uprising in India, "The White Tiger" instead filters modern India through a crime drama like "Scarface."

But "The White Tiger" more rigorously examines and subverts Hollywood (and Bollywood) stereotypes of Indian life. Balram, a self-made hero, capable of ruthlessness and selfishness, is a more complicated protagonist, worthy of empathy and scorn. In "The White Tiger," he represents India's future.

"The Indian entrepreneur has to be straight and crooked, mocking and believing, sly and sincere, all at the same time," he says.

Bahrani, with Paolo Carnera's vivid cinematography, builds a dense, incisive film that nevertheless feels uneven in structure. The movie is so invested in the mentality of the slave-master relationship between Balram and Ashok, the landlord's hipster son, that it overwhelms. Almost as soon as Balram, through bloodshed and Machiavellian guile, achieves independence, "The White Tiger" is wrapping up. Maybe it's too American a thing to say, but it skips over the best part.

"The White Tiger," a Netflix release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for language, violence and sexual material. Running time: 125 minutes. Three stars out of four.

O'Leary

from page B-1

nancial woes only deepened.

"I was so afraid people like my wife would find out, that people would find out all my secrets. I was getting foreclosure notices on my house and rushing home to get the mail before my wife got home," the Boston College alumnus recounted.

"I kept on saying to myself, 'Okay, I'm holding \$5,000 for a closing in a month, so I can use that to pay off the mortgage. Then in another month, I'd have to move another \$5,000 to cover that,'" he added.

By 1991, the whole Ponzi-like scam came crashing down as authorities began investigating the state representative.

Before being officially charged, O'Leary resolved to kill himself, and after leaving a note explaining his plan to his wife and children, he took off on a cross-country trek that brought him to the West Coast and back east by West Virginia.

Though making a half-hearted suicide attempt, the politician eventually realized how crazy his plan was. However, he still thought he had no one to turn to and nowhere to go.

Believing during that 10-day run that his family and close friends were about to disown him, what the politician didn't know was that those same people were tracing his gasoline purchases with a credit card in a desperate attempt to save his life.

For years after West Virginia police managed to locate the politician and convince him to return to his family, O'Leary continually found himself shocked by that spirit of forgiveness.

"I loved the job of being state rep. But that was the worst four years of my life. It could have been the best, but I damn near destroyed my marriage and family," he said.

"The people of Melrose and Stoneham were just extraordinarily kind. Everyone knew I messed up, but I never got the kind of backlash I was so terrified of. People came up to me and said, 'just keep your head up.'...I know everyone gets support from their family, but

mine just went above and beyond."

Loosely based on true events

For the scandalized politician, who emerged from the Billerica House of Corrections nearly three decades ago in debt and deeply ashamed of his actions, writing an unpublished autobiography of sorts proved cathartic.

Distressed by the thought of someone finding that first tome, which he dubbed "Sullivan's Time", O'Leary would trash that 700-page manuscript after stashing it in his attic of his former Melrose home.

But nearly two decades after his release from jail, when the then 65-year-old mental health advocate began flirting with the idea of writing fiction, he again decided to stick with parts of his own story.

So emerged Connor McNeil, the main protagonist of his first book, "The Day Job".

In the self-published novel, McNeill, a disbarred lawyer and former state representative, is fresh out of jail and unemployed when he stumbles across an opportunity to do some political opposition research on the state's popular governor.

The protagonist ultimately unearths evidence that the state's chief executive, a former professional football star, is a hibernating serial killer.

O'Leary once completing his jail sentence in October of 1992 began working for the Massachusetts Association for Mental Health, where he often talked to others about his history of depression and suicidal thinking.

He ultimately became the deputy director of the non-profit agency, before retiring after a 23-years career. Selling his home in Melrose and briefly living in Cape Cod after his retirement, he and his wife of 53 years, Patricia, moved to Wakefield in order to be closer to their children and grandchildren.

Both "Robes" and O'Leary's first novel can be purchased on Amazon in both paperback and e-reader versions. The mystery novels can also be purchased at the Book Oasis in Stoneham Square at 311 Main St.

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• **MIDDLESEX EAST SPORTS WEEKLY TRIVIA:** Who caught Tom Brady's first career NFL touchdown pass back in 2001 with the Patriots?

Answer appears below:

Even officials having to adjust during Covid sports

High school athletes, coaches, athletic directors are all trying to adapt during this athletic season with many changes to the rules in the sports that they are playing, coaching and administering. But, what about the officials that need to work these games?

"The first game, between the hand whistle, mask, rule changes, I felt like I had never ref'd before," said local basketball official SCOTT ALMEIDA, a Reading resident. "It took a few games to feel comfortable. The rule changes are all relatively minor and easy to adapt to."

Almeida is among the top officials in the state. He's "ref'd" Division 1 state finals at the DCU Center as well as top prep school tournament games. So he's been around the block, so to speak.

A few rule adaptations that are coming easier for him, and the other officials as the season goes on like, no in-bound plays from under the basket, free throws lane limitations, and giving a player six feet, instead of three, when inbound the ball, are starting to be the new norm in high school games.

Almeida misses the crowd, but in some cases, doesn't miss the crowd. He also feels it really shouldn't be up to the officials to police

the players wearing their masks.

"I don't miss the parents that like to 'help' the officials, but do miss the atmosphere," said Almeida. "Games feel like scrimmages at times."

"AD's have done a great job with site administration to make the environment as safe as possible," he went on. "I have had a couple of school administrators that felt we should do a better job enforcing that players keep their masks up over their noses. I feel like that should be more the coach's responsibility."

Officials now must come dressed to the game, since there is not an officials' changing room, area, etc. where they could take a shower after the game. But a plus is there is definitely less traffic so getting to the game in time is not as challenging.

"Overall, I'm glad I chose to officiate this season and not opt out," said Almeida. "But, the big thing is, I'm glad the players (especially the seniors) and coaches have been able to have some type of season, even if it's only 10-12 games."

Junior hockey league takes to bubble in Tampa

Hub City Tampa provided the setting for the United States Premier Hockey League (USPHL) All-Star Game Event, held over two days on Sunday and Monday, Jan. 17-18. There were four total games played in the National Collegiate Development Conference (NCDC), USPHL Premier and USPHL Elite, the latter two levels seeing their first-ever All-Star games.

More than 40 NCAA Divi-



sion 1 commitments and six players listed on the most recent NHL Central Scouting Players To Watch list were part of the event at the NCDC level on Monday.

It has come to this, even for junior hockey, during this pandemic that many teams went down to Tampa beginning on Jan. 4 to play in their version of a bubble for six weeks.

Local skaters MICHAEL MARTIGNETTI and LUKE MIX of Winchester, along with DANNY WOODS and RYAN BARRETT of Wilmington played for Team American (representing the New England Division and some Mid-Atlantic teams) in the Premier Hub City All-Star game in Tampa.

Team American earned the 7-3 win. Woods, of the Northern Cyclones, was the leading scorer the game with 2 goals and 1 assist.

Burlington's RYAN O'HALLORAN is playing for the New Hampshire Jr. Monarchs' NCDC team. He has a scoring line of 5-2-7 in 23 games so far. O'Halloran had his most recent goal in last Wednesday's 6-5 win over Boston Advantage at AdventHealth Center Ice Rink in Tampa.

The USPHL is partnering with Saddlebrook Resort ("Saddlebrook"), a multi-dimensional Tampa Resort and Conference Center, and AdventHealth Center Ice, a state-of-the-art 4-sheet, full-

service ice hockey facility, to provide teams an environment to execute high-performance training and competition.

Need help with this week's trivia question: The receiver in question was drafted in the first round (seventh overall) in the 1996 NFL Draft.

MASCAC update on Fall in Spring competition

The Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) announced last Friday that the eight MASCAC Presidents made the difficult decision to cancel the fall in spring semester athletic conference competition, including all indoor and outdoor athletic conference competition. The decision ends the possibility of resuming the fall conference competition during the spring of 2021 but will allow fall and winter student-athletes training opportunities. While there will not be a conference schedule for MASCAC fall sports, member institutions will be allowed to schedule fall sport non-conference games at their discretion.

Although fall MASCAC competition has been canceled, the state universities will continue to provide student-athletes with on-campus, in-person practices, conditioning, and training opportunities during the spring semester in order to support their physical and

mental well-being. These practice and training opportunities will not use a year of NCAA Eligibility and will be done in compliance with campus, state and federal COVID guidance and protocols.

The MASCAC Presidents are hopeful that a spring sports season will occur and plan to announce their decision in February.

"We are disappointed conference competition couldn't be provided for our fall student-athletes in the spring," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "We are still creating plans to play the spring sports season and are hopeful we will be able to provide those student-athletes an athletic experience."

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its' 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

NCAA Division 1 men's hockey tournament will be seeded differently

BU was the last Division 1 men's hockey team to get its season started when the Terriers took to the ice on Jan. 8 at Walter Brown Arena against Providence.

As in other college sports, there surely will be a wide variance in number of games played this season, by design or because of virus outbreaks. Some college hockey teams already have played a dozen. Many are not playing non-conference games. Those factors mess up the

metrics used to determine the 10 at-large spots in the 16-team NCAA Tournament.

Instead of relying on the objectivity of the computer-based Pairwise rankings, the Division 1 ice hockey committee members will have to go old school and hash it out among themselves.

In the Eastern College Athletic Conference, the six Ivy League members along with Union College and RPI opted out for the season. That leaves Clarkson, Colgate, St. Lawrence and Quinnipiac.

Another league, Atlantic Hockey, has had 22 of its first 81 games canceled or postponed.

The National Collegiate Hockey Conference had its eight teams gather for 21 days in Omaha, Nebraska, last month. All players, staff and officials had to stay in what was called the pod, meaning Baxter Arena and their nearby hotel. There was regular COVID-19 testing and other precautions were taken, and all 38 of the scheduled games were played.

"It's going to be an asterisk year in college hockey, no doubt about it," said Division 1 ice hockey committee member Mike Kemp.

Answer to this week's question: Terry Glenn caught Tom Brady's first NFL career TD pass in a game against the San Diego Chargers on Oct. 14, 2001.

• **DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING WE DON'T?** If you have information about a local athlete that you would like to see appear in this column, please email it to sports@dailytimesinc.com.

• Real Estate Transfers •

BURLINGTON

171 Bedford St was sold to Hazel Real Estate LLC by AMJ Investments LLC for \$1,000,000 on 01/05/21

94 Center St was sold to Filikov, Anton by Paige, John M for \$443,000 on 01/06/21

10 Marjorie Rd was sold to Damaso, Sean and Damaso, Kristen by 16 Dorothy Avenue LLC for \$1,203,000 on 01/06/21

39 Mill St was sold to Jamgochian, Ruth P and Jamgochian, John C by Duffy, Timothy P for \$550,000 on 01/05/21

2 Paulson Dr was sold to Pape, Mary and Pape, Robert L by 3 Holly Street LLC for \$1,280,000 on 01/07/21

59 Peach Orchard Rd was sold to Rigby, William G and Rigby, Paula A by Rigby, Mary T for \$450,000 on 01/08/21

6 Sumner St was sold to Goel, Rakesh by Justinger Diane E Est and Sacco, Tracy J for \$650,000 on 01/05/21

NORTH READING

414 Park St was sold to Rahaghi, Farbod N by Shaw, Frederick for \$830,000 on 12/30/20

3 Tarbox Ln was sold to Pinkney-Rainey, David and Rainey, Carrie A by US Bank NA Tr for \$1,200,000 on 12/29/20

14 Winter St was sold to Lahiri, Arindam and Niyogi, Sayantane by Tarr, Catherine L and Tarr, Kenneth L for \$555,000 on 12/30/20

11 Burditt Rd was sold to Marulli, Janelle R by Schubert, Jacqueline M and JCG Investments LLC for \$720,000 on 01/07/21

1 Greenbriar Dr #305 was sold to Miedico, Aurise M by Partners Ltd RT and Caggiano, Benjamin J for \$262,500 on 01/04/21

6 Harvest Ln was sold to Keone-Sugai, Nicholas and Browning-Kamins, Jenna by Merullo, Anthony S and Merullo, Leanne M for \$743,500 on 01/08/21

230 Martins Lndg #4406 was sold to Aman-tini FT and Sun, Nancy by Pulte Hm Of New Eng LLC for \$493,285 on 01/04/21

READING

36 Augustus Ct #1012 was sold to Yu, Raymond and Leung, Helen by Rogers, Sheila M for \$420,000 on 01/08/21

27 Bainbridge Rd was sold to Harren, Daniel and Harren, Allison by Roman Cath Archb Of for \$675,000 on 01/05/21

32 Eastway was sold to Squeglia, William P and Squeglia, Rosemarie by Coray, Richard A and Toscano-Coray, Rita for \$890,000 on 01/05/21

15 Evergreen Rd was sold to Griffin, Thomas and Griffin, Jennifer by Boudreau, Charles P and Boudreau, Heather A for \$800,000 on 01/08/21

168 Green St was sold to CA LLC by Harren, Daniel and Harren, Allison for \$453,000 on 01/04/21

88 Green St #88 was sold to Shibata, Masayoshi and Shibata, Mitsuko by Arbor-green Inc for \$40,000 on 01/05/21

1505 Main St was sold to Cleary, Devin and Machado, Camilo by Armor Development LLC for \$985,000 on 01/07/21

STONEHAM

15 Broadway was sold to Dellaria, Jeremy by Marlene Mimmo LT and Mimmo, Marlene for \$629,400 on 01/08/21

8 Congress St was sold to Krueger, Ryan C and Osullivan, Taylor A by Howe, Michael for \$575,900 on 01/08/21

200 Fellsview Ter #201 was sold to Petersen, Joseph by Scoppa, Bruno V and Scoppa, Karen E for \$230,000 on 01/04/21

8 Lucy St was sold to Underwood&Beacon.

LLC by Vroom John H Est and Chingris, Gretchen A for \$300,000 on 01/04/21

151 Main St was sold to Stoneham Ventures LLC by Focus Realty Group LLC for \$1,520,000 on 01/07/21

68 Main St #21C was sold to Humber, Nadiyah J and Carroll, Jeremy M by Wood RT and Russell, Linda W for \$315,000 on 01/05/21

22-24 Marble St was sold to Aprile, Stephen by Giacobelli, Robert for \$670,000 on 01/06/21

100 Park Terrace Dr #158 was sold to Macina, Monica by Daniels-Enos, Jennifer for \$350,000 on 01/04/21

28 Washington St was sold to Onedean LLC by Morong, Daniel J and Morong, Leigh for \$755,000 on 01/08/21

TEWKSBURY

40 Overlook Dr was sold to Aprile, Christopher E and Aprile, Kelly A by Larson, Daniel and Zukowski, Kerrie for \$519,900 on 12/30/20

126 Patrick Rd #126 was sold to Comeau, Janna and Santino-Luiso, James by Cow-perthwaite, Jane for \$300,000 on 12/30/20

60 Ronald Dr was sold to Daly, Robert and Daly, Cheryl by Waible, Patricia and Waible, Joseph A for \$515,000 on 12/30/20

36 Yorkshire Drive Ext #36 was sold to Lee, Kyung W and Yang, Soyeon by Patel, Sagar for \$580,000 on 12/30/20

91 Heidenrich Dr was sold to Goldenberg, Vlad and Li, Carmen by Nunes, Jenny M and Nunes, Frank M for \$662,000 on 01/08/21

55 Oak St was sold to Clough, Kevin by Marlow, Weston A for \$491,000 on 01/06/21

54 Patten Rd was sold to Eustis, Kim M by O'Brien, Matthew R for \$487,000 on 01/04/21

1668 Shawsheen St was sold to Self Real-estate Prop LLC by 1650 RT and Monoxelos, James for \$4,447,000 on 01/04/21

667 Whipple Rd was sold to Shabo, George R and Shabo, Sarah A by Mullane Construction LLC for \$600,000 on 01/04/21

WAKEFIELD

6 Nelly St was sold to Nelly Street NT and Pourshadi, Majid by Chisholm, Craig E for \$720,000 on 12/30/20

3 Richardson St #C1 was sold to Morrison, Chelsea by Kozachuk, William R and Kozachuk, Staci L for \$290,000 on 12/30/20

22 Robert St was sold to Irwin, Rachel S and Irwin, Brett P by Feinberg, Margaret J for \$570,000 on 12/30/20

248 Albion St #235 was sold to Hunjan, Karan and Hunjan, Sneha by Prois, Steven for \$520,501 on 01/05/21

38 Bennett St #3D was sold to Cresta-Devine, Belinda by Colarusso, Robin A for \$275,000 on 01/08/21

34 Curtis St was sold to Neal, Justin F and Neal, Sarah J by M A Pirrello Contracting for \$1,180,000 on 01/07/21

251 Nahant St was sold to HB Development Corp by Studio RT and Zagaria, Pasquale for \$275,000 on 01/06/21

10 Otis St was sold to Murphy, Christopher J by Stickney FT and Covell, Linda M or \$475,000 on 01/08/21

123 Pleasant St was sold to Nascimento-Sanderson, R D by Ditunno, John P and Ditunno, Mary C for \$580,000 on 01/08/21

27 Warren Ave was sold to Voss, Jon R and Voss, Patricia by Andrews, Donald L and Andrews, Katelyn R for \$510,000 on 01/05/21

Water St #53BB was sold to Ulwick, Stephen by CA INT and Cornier, Yvon for \$25,000 on 01/08/21

Water St #53BD was sold to Ulwick, Stephen by CA INT and Cornier,

Yvon for \$25,000 on 01/08/21

WILMINGTON

195 Salem St #2107 was sold to Aleo, Faye by Guerra, Marlene for \$449,900 on 12/29/20

2 Tomahawk Dr was sold to Dalessandro, Elaine M and Dalessandro, James J by Naranjo, Monica for \$775,000 on 12/30/20

844 Woburn St was sold to Atlantic Oliver 844 Woburn by 844 Woburn Street LLC for \$12,670,248 on 12/31/20

16 Bay St was sold to Espinola, Rui by Ram, Beera and Badwal, Mohinder for \$475,000 on 01/08/21

74 Church St was sold to Dobbert, Sirrah and Dobbert, Ryan by Reichert Church LLC for \$612,500 on 01/04/21

8 Fairview Ave was sold to Lucien, Jouselle by Hogan, Shaylin and Hogan, Benjamin for \$420,000 on 01/07/21

152 Faulkner Ave was sold to Fernandes, Ana and Tucker, Edward B by Rugg, Brennan E and Giallorenzo, Joan for \$549,900 on 01/08/21

29 Hobson Ave was sold to Melaragni, Michael K and Macneill, William by Leone, Salvatore S for \$340,000 on 01/06/21

1-A Kendall St was sold to Krevat, Andrew R and Krevat, Angelika by Issa, Fahd I and Fahd-Issa, Nadaa for \$755,000 on 01/05/21

23 Marion St was sold to Capotosto, Joseph R and Capotosto, Erin K by Dicarolo, Thomas V and Dicarolo, Erin S for \$612,000 on 01/04/21

353 Middlesex Ave was sold to Atlantic Oliver 353 Middl by A&G Events LLC for \$4,800,000 on 01/08/21

WINCHESTER

4 Ardley Pl was sold to Nierenberg, David R and Nierenberg, Kara K by 4 Ardley LLC for \$1,990,000 on 01/06/21

33 Canterbury Rd was sold to Olson, Crispin N and Olson, Emma by Kneebone, Robb and McCarron, Kerry for \$992,000 on 01/08/21

6 Edward Dr was sold to Stankowicz, James M and Stankowicz, Sarah J by Yao, Yao and Zhao, Enhao for \$1,255,000 on 01/07/21

9 Fletcher St was sold to Tahnk, Joseph C and Tahnk, Stephanie A by JTA RT and

Tahnk, Jeanne for \$1,000,000 on 01/07/21

129 Sylvester Ave was sold to Sykes, Emile C and Omaile, Niamh by Aufero, William R and Aufero, Jenna A for \$879,000 on 01/07/21

WOBURN

1 Oregon Ave #3 was sold to Maimaiti-sidike, Hairensa and Kawasaier, Wayiti by Beauchamp 1-3 Or Ave NT and Logan, Kathleen B for \$470,000 on 12/24/20

345 Place Ln #345 was sold to Barbato, Ernest A and Barbato, Rhonda J by Lindquist, Constance W for \$390,000 on 12/30/20

35 Prospect St #211 was sold to Zahir, Dorothy A by Oconnell, Joseph for \$215,000 on 12/29/20

364 Russell St was sold to Meier, David R and Travers, Taylor A by Funari, Donald for \$535,000 on 12/30/20

41 Atlantic Ave was sold to Atlantic Oliver 41 Atlant by Atlantic Ave Assoc Inc for \$5,000,000 on 01/08/21

19 Fairway Dr was sold to Lu, Hongjian and Li, Yuexian by Nijssen RT and Nijssen, Carole G for \$870,900 on 01/08/21

2 Inwood Dr #3009 was sold to Mastrototaro, Daniel J by 3T Realty Corp for \$589,000 on 01/08/21

1 Jefferson Ct was sold to Garozzo, Andrew J and Garozzo, Elena R by Davis, Davon and Davis, Kayla L or \$536,000 on 01/07/21

357 Lexington St was sold to Chuong, Cun L and Ngo, Vo H by Lexington Street RT and Leblanc, Deborah for \$525,000 on 01/05/21

LYNNFIELD

31 Bishops Ln was sold to Pace, Nicholas J and Paca, Amanda J by Bishops 31 RT and Suter, Vincent A for \$1,100,001 on 01/04/21

37 Doncaster Cir was sold to Ramaraj, Sivaprakasam and Thangavel, Anitha by Voro, Robert S for \$630,000 on 01/08/21

7 Orchard Ln was sold to Keighley, Kimberly and Oconnor, Seab by Merle, Gale A for \$1,277,000 on 01/05/21

722 Salem St was sold to Tauro, David C by Correia, Donna M and Correia, Joseph for \$1,005,000 on 01/07/21

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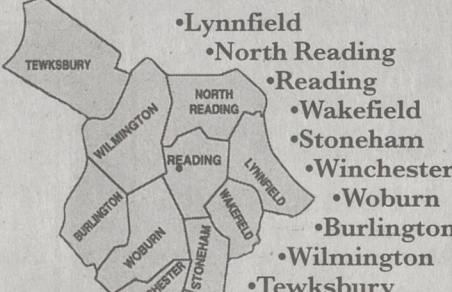
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Tewksbury Police Log

Police warned about possible drug deal; nothing found

Monday, January 18

12:16 a.m. - Caller reported an erratic driver at Livingston Street. Police sent and made a motor vehicle stop. Vehicle parked at the owners residence.

1:07 a.m. - Caller reported a suspicious semi parked on Poplar Street. Police sent. Semi was making a delivery to #100 at 8 a.m. and parked and resting until then.

1:26 p.m. - Caller reported that his grandmother at Carnation Drive has been receiving calls from a male party claiming he's an attorney. The party was looking for money. The caller wanted to speak to an officer. Officer filed a report.

2:04 p.m. - Police sent to Oakdale Mall to speak to parties who were making them feel uncomfortable.

Police spoke to the parties and cleared.

9:08 p.m. - Caller reported about 50 cars behind Jon Ryan's Pub doing burn outs in the parking lot. Police sent. There was not 50 cars there doing burn-outs, but will stay in area.

Tuesday, January 19

8:02 a.m. - Management reported homeless individuals living in makeshift tents behind the Market Basket North. Police sent to check the area. A similar complaint has recently come in, although the tents were in Lowell. The tent was vacant.

2:31 p.m. - A 911 caller stated a motor vehicle parked near the caller's home and his following him at Delaney Drive. Officer spoke to party. The vehicle was not the one he

thought it was.

3:50 p.m. - A vehicle was in the parking lot at Oakdale Mall with a flat tire and damage. Police sent. Operator checked out.

8:05 p.m. - Caller reported suspicious activity involving a brown Honda civic and a silver 4-door sedan at Radcliff Road. Caller believed they were dealing drugs as he can smell narcotics coming from the vehicles and they frequently drive up to different cars throughout the night. The vehicles have since left the area but the caller requested an area check. Police sent to conduct an area check, nothing suspicious found.

Wednesday, January 20

10:49 a.m. - Caller reported navy SUV has been parked at the bottom of the circle a

few times a week the past few weeks with a woman inside it at Darlene Circle. Police sent. Party was a visiting nurse and she was resting in between appts.

8:49 p.m. - Caller reported an ongoing noise issue with her neighbors at Pleasant Street. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

Thursday, January 21

2:11 a.m. - Caller received threatening text from a friend and was concerned for her well being at Ames Hill Drive. Officer filed a report.

10:57 a.m. - Caller reported his landlord was at North Street ruining his yard. Police sent and filed a report.

3:46 p.m. - Caller at Advanced Surgical Associates reported a possible drunk-

en male heading south on Main Street. Police sent but the vehicle was gone on arrival.

8:59 p.m. - Personal care attendant at Pondview Lane received threatening texts from another employee. Officer filed a review.

Friday, January 22

1:26 p.m. - Caller stated that her Snapchat has been hacked and that someone was downloading the pictures that she has saved at Merrimack Meadows Lane. Police sent.

1:37 p.m. - Female caller reported a male party going door to door stating he was from National Grid Electric at Elm Street. Police sent. Officers checked the area, reported gone on arrival.

2:24 p.m. - Manager from the Walmart requested assistance with two male customers who entered the store refusing to wear a mask. Officer sent. They spoke with the parties who put a mask on then left.

Saturday, January 23

2:42 a.m. - Caller reported a vehicle that has been running in the parking lot for two hours at Holiday Inn. Police responding. Owner moved vehicle. Appears to be an oversight.

9:19 a.m. - Male caller reported his girlfriend slashed his tires sometime last night at Motel 6. Police sent. Officer filed a report.

Sunday, January 24

6:46 a.m. - Front desk requesting officers to respond to Motel 6 room for being loud and not responding to any phone calls. Police sent. Parties have left.

7:08 a.m. - Lowell Police Department advised they have an off duty officer out with a female party who states she was involved in an assault inside a motor vehicle at Andover Street. Police sent. They transported the female to the females address in Lowell. Police filed a report.



Wilmington Police Log

Woman arrested for OUI-liquor, second offense

Friday, January 15:

7:54 a.m.: The driver of a blue 2020 Jeep Grand Cherokee was given a written warning at Shawsheen Avenue and Manning Street for causing gridlock.

8:27 a.m.: A resident on Pilling Road reported a dog attacked a rabbit. An Animal Control Officer later removed the rabbit.

1:01 p.m.: A gray 2002 Toyota Tacoma and a white 2019 Ford Transit were involved in a two-car motor vehicle collision at the Lowell Street and I-93 Northbound, Exit 38 ramp. Both vehicles were towed and the Fire Department transported one.

Saturday, January 16:

1:05 a.m.: Chazz Adam Rossman-Chnioui, 1100G Spring Valley Dr., Andover and Thomas M. Morse, 28 Suncrest Road, Andover were summonsed for

Possession of Liquor for Person Under 21. They were discovered while police were investigating a suspicious vehicle at Ristuccia Arena. Responsible parties came and took the two home.

4:03 p.m.: A black 2019 Nissan Rogue and a white 2021 RAM Chassis belonging to FedEx were involved in a two-car motor vehicle crash on Ballardvale Street. Caller stated the involved party was giving him a hard time about exchanging information, but ultimately did so.

11:38 p.m.: A caller on Pembroke Street reported a dark SUV parked in the cul-de-sac for half an hour. The vehicle left before the police could be dispatched.

Sunday, January 17:

11:29 a.m.: Ebony Ivory Monteiro, 801 Tremont St., Apt #406, Boston was issued a summons for Un-

licensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, No or Expired Inspection/Sticker and Obstructed/Nontransparent Window. The gray 2005 Nissan Murano was towed from the Heavenly Donuts on Main Street.

12:31 p.m.: A caller reported an erratic driver at Lowell and Main Streets. The operator ran the light at Lowell and West Streets, passing and almost hitting vehicles in the opposite travel lane. The vehicle was described as a gray hatchback style and was last seen making a right onto Main Street. Police were unable to locate.

8:19 p.m.: Amy C. Spencer, 90 Wilmington Road, Burlington, was summonsed for Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle, No or Expired Inspection/Sticker, and Motor Vehicle Lights Violation. Her black 2013 Kia Forte was stopped on Burlington Avenue and taken home by a licensed operator.

9:55 p.m.: Sara J. Brothers, 21 Hickory Lane, Tewksbury, was arrested for OUI-Liquor (2nd Offense), Resisting Arrest, Possession of an open Container of Alcohol in a Motor Vehicle, and Marked Lanes Violation. The gray 2020 Lincoln Corsair was stopped at Main Street and Pine Avenue.

Monday, January 18:

2:59 p.m.: A walk-in party claimed their car was hit by another vehicle in the Dollar Tree parking lot on Main Street. The other party called, reporting vehicle damage. Police went to view damage and facilitate information exchange.

3:47 p.m.: Management at K1 Speed on Fordham Road called regarding an intoxicated male who tried to put an employee in a chokehold over a refund dispute. The man, described as white with black hair and a blue sweatshirt, was last seen outside in the

parking lot. The police served the man with a no trespass order.

6:18 p.m.: A gray 2020 GMC Canyon was involved in a hit and run with another vehicle at the intersection of West Street and Lowell Street. Police were on the lookout for a white car with possible passenger side damage, possibly heading toward Reading. Reading Police found nothing.

Tuesday, January 19:

11:38 a.m.: A deceased possum was removed from Chestnut Street and Navajo Drive.

3:26 p.m.: A two-car motor vehicle crash occurred near Champion's Choice on Main Street between a white 2013 Nissan Rogue and a white 2018 RAM ProMaster. No injuries were reported and no airbags deployed.

3:46 p.m.: A caller on King Street reported his vehicle was egged in his driveway overnight. He did not request an officer view it, but did want the incident logged.

Wednesday, January 20:

5 p.m.: The owner of a gray 2017 Toyota Camry SE reported that her vehicle was egged sometime between 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. today on Broad Street.

6:52 p.m.: A female reported an aggressive male driver exited his vehicle and took a photo of her license plate and started yelling at her while at a red

light on Lowell Street and West Street. Police spoke to the male party who stated the female cut him off as she exited the highway. The male party admitted his mistake. Police then spoke with the female on Horseshoe Lane who admitted she may have cut him off. The female did not wish the incident to go any further.

Thursday, January 21:

3:34 a.m.: Suspicious activity was investigated at the MBTA North Wilmington Parking Lot. A white 2015 Toyota Camry SE was parked with an individual sleeping inside. The party, who is homeless, will stay until morning and then move.

4:54 p.m.: Police checked on a disabled LTR bus on Main Street that was pulled over and letting people off. The bus was awaiting a tow and another bus was en route.

5:14 p.m.: A resident on Boutwell Street reported his granite post was struck and knocked over.

9:34 p.m.: A red 2012 Dodge Ram 150 was reportedly speeding up and down North Street. Police spoke with the reporting party who stated the truck had a light bar under the tailgate and a loud exhaust. Another officer had the vehicle stopped at Clark Street and Washington Avenue. The operator stated he has a friend on North Street with whom he is currently not getting along. He was advised and apologized.

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School Committee voted last Wednesday night for WHS Athletics to resume

School Officials hit the play button

By LIZZY HILL
News Correspondent

office@yourtowncrier.com
WILMINGTON -- A late addition to the Superintendent's Report for the School Committee meeting last Wednesday night allowed the committee to vote to allow sports participation for Wilmington High School remote learners.

On Saturday, January 16th, Brand sent a letter to the community stating that four Wilmington schools, including the high school, would be

switched to remote learning until January 29th. The following day, he decided to put high school athletics on pause for two weeks, and Athletic Director Mia Muzio sent her own letter informing the public of that decision.

Just four/five days after those letters were sent out, Brand gave a presentation to the Board Members asking to press the play button on athletics. Later on in the meeting that was granted as the board voted unani-

mously to allow athletics to resume despite the four schools in remote learning.

The next day, the student-athletes at WHS were back practicing while the members of the co-ed swim team were allowed to participate in their meet.

Brand began his presentation with some recent numbers of positives and quarantines in Wilmington sports teams from the winter season.

So far, he said that there have been 11 positive

cases and 53 close contacts, with 25 of those close contacts happening on two separate occasions.

There have been three teams with positive cases and four teams who had to quarantine, and one of those four has quarantined twice. These were the boys varsity hockey, girls varsity hockey, JVA boys basketball, and JVB boys basketball teams.

He then listed examples of surrounding districts that have changed learning models to remote and

the status of their sports. Arlington, Lexington, Peabody, Saugus, and Watertown were named as districts that continued to participate in sports through their time of remote learning. The towns that paused athletics while school was fully remote were Danvers, North Andover, Reading, and Stoneham.

Brand shared a statement from Athletic Director Mia Muzzio, which read, "Athletics are so much more than the ability to compete—par-

ticipation is part of the educational experience." Knowing that COVID-19 cases in athletes have gone up, she still recommended that sports participation continue, except for the teams in quarantine, while WHS is remote.

Brand went on to say that MIAA and DESE guidance suggests that athletics be suspended when a school changes from hybrid to remote learning. However, he told the committee that they

ATHLETICS B6W

Fitzler bounces back with superb outing

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON -- Sitting on a chair, upset at himself and his performance after giving up five goals to a talented Burlington squad, Alex Fitzler got some words of encouragement from his friend and senior goalie partner Sam Cedrone. Then as he was walking out the door, heading to his car, head coach Steve Scanlon stopped Fitzler in his tracks and told him to keep his head up, it's one game and more importantly his first game in over a year.

That was back, on January 9th, which was the first start of the season for Fitzler. It was also his first start in almost two years, dating back to when he was a sophomore and he was inbetween the pipes for the team's two state tournament games, a win over Wakefield before losing to



Wilmington High senior Alex Fitzler was superb in the net on Saturday, helping the Wildcats pick up their first win of the season, a 3-1 decision over Melrose.

(photo by Bob DeChiara).

Masconomet.

This past Saturday, Fitzler got his second start of the season. After waiting 14 days between starts, and thinking about that first game, the senior was nothing short of spec-

tacular in the team's 3-1 win over Melrose. He stopped 25-of-26 shots, including four coming on a power play just three minutes into the game before making a magnificent one with about four

minutes left of a two-goal game.

"Fitzler was awesome," said Scanlon. "He was very athletic and he made some outstanding saves. He was much better with

FITZLER B8W

Wildcats overtake Melrose, get into win column

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

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WILMINGTON -- Starting the season out with an 0-2-1 record and then going four days without a practice due to the short pause of all athletics, the Wilmington High School boys hockey team really needed and wanted to beat league rival Melrose at home on Saturday afternoon.

Just 2:32 into the game, things looked bleak for the 'Cats who took two penalties. Melrose scored one goal on the two-man advantage and after settling down a bit and playing their game, the Wildcats rallied back and scored the game's next three goals to come away with a solid 3-1 victory.

"It was good to get the win and good to get a couple of goals," said head coach Steve Scanlon. "We had some overhandling of the puck and then early penalties (hurt us). The shooting difference came on penalties. They had a shot edge basically because of power plays. (Brenden Fennell) No. 17

is a really strong player. That was a great goal that he scored. Overall, we'll take this win, move on and try to get the next one."

After last year's season ended, it was thought that this would be a monumental season for Melrose, but before the season and since it started, the Red Raiders lost five players due to transferring to Juniors or other schools, leaving the team with less depth. However, the team still has plenty of size and several snipers, including Fennell, who got things rolling for the visitors with the power play goal as he came off the right point and fired a wrist shot to the top left hand corner.

Still on the power play, Melrose managed to move the puck around very well and put four shots on net, all turned away from senior goalie Alex Fitzler, who was extremely sharp, agile and overall terrific in this one, stopping 25-of-26 shots on the night.

His effort along with his teammates staying out of

WILDCATS B8W

Basketball team on the verge of getting one

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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WILMINGTON -- A cold shooting third quarter cost the Wilmington High Boys Basketball team on Saturday afternoon, as they came up just short of picking up their first win of the season, suffering a 70-65 loss to Middlesex League Freedom Division rival Melrose at the Lawrence H. Cushing Gymnasium.

The Wildcats (0-5), played what may have been their best game of the season to this point, leading 16-15 at the end of the first quarter and 34-32 at the half. But they were outscored 16-9 in the third quarter and never recovered, despite rallying in the fourth quarter.

"The shots just weren't falling for us in the third quarter," Wildcats coach Dennis Ingram said. "It was a good game, but we just came up a little short. We came back towards the end, and I feel like we just ran out of time."

While he was happy with the way his team finished up the game, Ingram also knows his team must reverse the trend of starting slow coming out of halftime, which has been abbreviated this season due to COVID precautions.

"The last couple of games we have struggled in the third quarter, so we are going to have to make some adjustments," Ingram said. "We are used to the ten or 12 minute half, and now it's just two minutes, so we need to do something as coaches to try and adjust to that."

Junior guard Tommy Mallinson led the way for the Wildcats with 17 points, while fellow junior Tyler Rourke chipped in with 12 and junior Will Doucette had 11. Senior DJ Ricupero added six points, on a pair of three pointers in the fourth quarter.

Along with the well balanced scoring, the Wildcats also got multiple strong rebounding efforts, with senior Jimmy McCarron and juniors Gavin Erickson and Luke Murphy grabbing seven boards each.

"It feels like the guys are getting a lot more comfortable in their roles and a lot of them are playing very well," Ingram said. "I feel like these guys are really close. Of course, we want to win, but I can't tell you how great it is for these kids to be in these games and being competitive."

"We feel like we let one slip away, so we know we

have to play better for the full 32 minutes, but we also feel like we are very close. They are giving it everything they have. The last two weeks of practice

have been great. The focus is there and the last two weeks of practice have been great. They really want to improve and it is translating into

the games."

The Wildcats will be back in action on Saturday when they travel to Wakefield for a rematch with the Red

Raiders. at 11:00 am, before returning home to host Wakefield next Wednesday afternoon at 3:45 pm in a makeup game.



Wilmington High's William Stuart drives to the basket during Saturday's home boys basketball game against Melrose.

(photo by Bob DeChiara).

Making their mark at Governor's Academy

Wilmington residents Maura Fiorenza, Jillian Fisher and Alex LaVigne

By DAN ZIMMERMAN
Sports Correspondent

sports@yourtowncrier.com
BYFIELD/WILMINGTON — The Governor's Academy athletics mission statement, found on the school's webpage, partly reads, "And they play in front of a community full of friends, parents, faculty, and staff who will always stand up and cheer for them."

Well said, certainly, but the individual who crafted these words could never have known what was in store for organized athletics during most of 2020, and now into 2021, including a total lack of spectators and abbreviated, diluted campaigns.

As the Coronavirus pandemic rages on and continues to wreak havoc on athletic programs throughout Massachusetts and beyond, those participants fortunate enough to step on courts or skate across ice surfaces, press on in hopes of a brighter future.

"Our hope is to play at least a ten-game season," said Jillian Fisher, an ice hockey defenseman with Governor's Academy, which the students have affectionately dubbed Govs. "Right now, we're just facing teams within the ISL (Independent School League). But there are a lot of factors that go into whether we play or not. We all get tested for the virus before each game and if a positive turns up, we are not able to play."

"We test on Wednesdays and the hope is that everything works out and we're able to play the same opponent twice that weekend, on Friday night and then again on Saturday morning," said teammate Maura

acres in Byfield, which is a village of Newbury. The school was established in 1763 by Governor William Dummer and draws students from throughout the world.

Athletically, Governor's Academy competes within the 16-team ISL and is a member of the New England Prep School Athletic Conference (NEPSAC). The Cardinals participate in 18 sports, including highly successful boys' and girls' hockey programs.

"We've had a number of really talented athletes play for us here at Governor's Academy," said Athletic Director and girls' ice hockey coach Claudia Barcomb, who won a national championship in 1999 as a captain with Harvard. "Former Olympian Alex Carpenter was here about ten years ago and BC's Kate Leary is a Governor's alum. We have a beautiful campus and our programs, both academic and athletic, are topnotch."

Ice hockey was one of the primary reasons behind Fiorenza's decision to enroll with Governor's Academy.

"I played a lot of hockey growing up and many of my friends were going to prep schools," said the junior defenseman, who got her start with Wilmington Youth Hockey and later moved on to the North Shore Vipers. "I heard a lot of good things about Govs and Coach Barcomb helped me make the decision. I spoke with her and my advisor a great deal which was helpful."

"We have a video of Maura playing hockey on our website that Governor's issued," said Barcomb. "Maura is the

ly."

Jillian Fisher, who would be considered a late bloomer because she didn't start skating until she was eight, took an interesting detour before reaching Governor's Academy. The three-sport athlete, who also participates in varsity soccer and track, actually repeated her freshman year and is currently an eighteen-year-old junior.

"During my first freshman year, I attended school at Austin Prep and later repeated as a freshman at Govs," said Fisher, who was part of the AP squad that finished the 2019-20 regular season with a perfect 23-0 mark but fell short in the states. "It was definitely harder, entering a school with an accelerated curriculum but I always wanted to attend a boarding school and sports-wise, it was a better fit for me."

"Jillian is a tough, solid defenseman," said Barcomb, who acknowledged the ironic coincidence that all three of her Wilmington-based athletes are blue-liners. "She's a vocal leader and is not afraid to share her knowledge with the other kids. Her confidence is unmatched and she handles constructive criticism, using it as an opportunity to build and improve."

Along with ice hockey, Fisher competes for the Cardinals' track team, specializing in the 100 and 200-meter sprints. But her number one is soccer and she is headstrong about playing in the college ranks. Barcomb suspects Fisher will find success in this respect, describing her as "very, very fast."

Alex Lavigne, 14, has a bright future ahead with



From left, Wilmington residents Jillian Fisher, Maura Fiorenza and Alex LaVigne, all friends and teammates of the Governor's Academy girls' hockey team this season. (courtesy photo).

league," said Lavigne, who sharpened her skills with Wilmington Youth Hockey before moving up to the Wizards and later, the Islanders. "We rolled

hockey family."

"Alex is a tough defenseman and seldom lets anyone skate past her," said Barcomb. "She has good hands and can shoot the

"On Wednesday, when I told the girls that our first contest would be with Nobles, arguably the best team in New England, they had a 'can't wait'



Left, Maura Fiorenza, above Jillian Fisher and to the right Alex LaVigne, all Wilmington residents and members of the Governor Academy girls' hockey team. (courtesy photos).



Fiorenza, 17, who along with Fisher and Alex Lavigne, make up a trio of Wilmington natives who currently skate for the Cardinals.

Governor's Academy is a private boarding and day school located thirty-miles north of Boston, nestled on more than 400

highlight of that film. She is so eager and a joy to coach. She's like a sponge and wants to absorb as much as she can. I know she's thinking about college and I have no doubt she'll do her homework and choose the school that has the right fit, both academically and athletically.

Governor's Academy. Recruited by Barcomb last year and entering the school this past fall, this freshman promises to play an important defensive role.

"We played Nobles yesterday and they're one of the best teams in the

six defensemen and I was one of them so I got plenty of ice time. Both the girls from Wilmington, Maura and Jill, have been mentors to me. And Coach Claudia has worked with me one-on-one and I'm noticing the improvement. We are a great

puck."

While many hockey programs in Greater Boston have already played several games, Governor's Academy is late to the party, due to a number of delays and league-related restrictions. But Barcomb, in the midst of a rebuilding phase, is pleased with the hockey she has seen thus far and like her players, glad to back on the ice.

attitude," she recalled. "Bring it on, they said. We'll play Nobles every day of the week! It was a fun game to play and even in a loss, the kids had a blast. Like every athlete going through this pandemic, they just want to play and return some form of normalcy to their lives."

School officials hit the play button

FROM B5W

were allowed to take action to allow sports to continue. David Ragsdale later clarified that this specific guidance doesn't talk about switching to remote in the middle of the season, so it doesn't exactly fit Wilmington's situation.

Some of the concerns that the committee held were with the highly contagious nature of the virus and the fact that two Wilmington teams have already had to quarantine

twice. Brand reminded them that the protocols for winter sports have included masks, pre-participation screenings, individual beverage containers, and not using locker rooms or shaking hands after games.

M. J. Byrnes asked how many team members testing positive would make a team shut down. Crowe said that it would be up to the Board of Health, but it depends upon the risk factor of the sport.

Steve Bjork wondered if the surrounding towns would still be willing to play against Wilmington knowing that the district is remote. "I have no reason to believe that they wouldn't play us," Brand answered.

Several committee members believed the remote learning period to be the safest time for students to play sports. "Students being out of school means they can't have school spread," Ragsdale pointed

out. Jenn Bryson said that she appreciated that student athletes have been staying in their bubble and following protocols so that they can play.

Furthermore, Bryson mentioned that there could be more consistency in the communication and decisions made around switching learning models. She said that it would appear to be different messaging when they say they're committed to in-person learning and then

switch to remote days later. Crowe said that the data that led to the change came in suddenly at the end of the previous week.

Ragsdale also suggested that there's a strong argument that students are safer in school than out of school, if COVID-19 is spreading among families. Bryson wondered if there were any places where the students could switch back to hybrid sooner than the end of the

two-week period.

It was Ragsdale who made a motion to approve participation in athletics. "I understand the idea behind going remote for some time for schools... but these kids understand the risks...we at least owe them the chance to see if they can have their season," said Jesse Fennelly.

Swimmers go 'Wild'; both squads come away with victories

By HENRY PELMAS
Sports Correspondent

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READING - The Wilmington/North Reading co-op girls' swim team improved their record to 3-0 with a 38-22 victory over Manchester-Essex during a Cape Ann League virtual meet held last Thursday night.

The Wild Hornets, who were pleased to know that they had their Wilmington swimmers back in the line-up for the meet after WHS Athletics were on pause for the previous five days, swam out of their home Reading YMCA Pool, while, ME had a depleted line-up with a handful of swimmers out because of commitments to their club teams.

Behind solid efforts from the entire Wild Hornets team, the team has remained unbeaten in this abbreviated COVID-19 season.

"I'm proud of the team's times tonight, and I am glad the girls could continue their win streak," said head coach Sue Hunter. "I look forward to (the Cape Ann League Championship Meet) at the end of the season, and think we'll prove our strength again and

again."

The team took first and second in the 200-yard medley relay, as Maddie Koenig, Melanie Feffer, Captain Oli Grabar, and Captain Emma Ryan, of Wilmington, swam a 2:05.7, and Wilmington's Lindsay Kane, along with Kelly Crossan, Nicole Steinmeyer, and Lauren Feffer swam a 2:14.44.

In the second event, the 200-yard freestyle, the girls took first, second, and third, as Captain Kristina Valenti swam a 2:22.08, Brianna Saunders-Correa swam a 2:54.58, and Wilmington resident Shae Fitzgerald finished at 3:36.92.

In the 200-yard individual medley, the girls again took first, second, and third place with Wilmington resident Kyla Kelley swimming a 2:14.49, Kelly Crossan swimming a 2:50.31, and Kiera Lord swimming a 3:44.26.

In the 50-yard freestyle, Melanie Feffer swam a 27.28 for first place, Maddie Koenig swam a 27.46 for second, and Lauren Feffer swam a 28.82 for third.

The 100-yard butterfly saw Grabar taking first with a 1:09.7, Ryan swim-

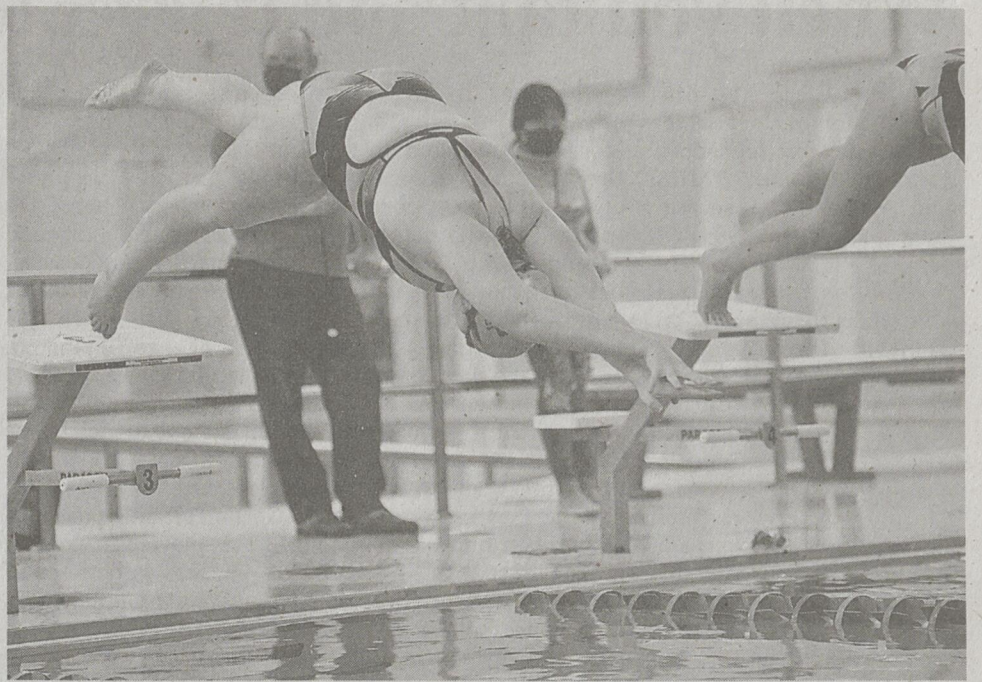
ming a 1:11.9 for second, and Nicole Steinmeyer swimming a 1:13.03 for third.

The team took first, second, and fourth in the 100-yard freestyle, with Kelley swimming a 56.52, Lauren Feffer swimming a 1:06.24, and Fitzgerald coming in at 1:22.40.

The girls team again took first, second, and third place within the 500-yard freestyle, with Valenti swimming a 6:01.39, Erin Davis (7:57.91), and Wilmington resident Rachel Repucci (7:58.33).

Again proving their strength, the girls took first, second, and third place in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Kelley, Melanie Feffer, Grabar, and Valenti swam a combined 1:52.71. Saunders-Correa, Lauren Feffer, Steinmeyer, and Ryan swam a 1:58.56, and Kiera Lord along with three Wilmington residents Anna Germano, Maggie Bourgeois, and Avis Samaha had a collective time of 2:35.61.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Koenig swam a 1:06.48, Kane swam a 1:19.82, and Caroline Schladenhauffen swam a 1:34.35, taking first, sec-



Wilmington resident Rachel Repucci gets a good start as she dives into the pool for one of her events during an earlier season varsity swim meet held at the Reading YMCA Pool.

ond, and third place respectively.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, the girls again claimed first, and second places, as Kelly Crossan finished at 1:20.82, and Melanie Feffer was clocked at 1:21.04.

In the final event of the night, the girls continued to strengthen their lead by again taking first, second, and third places with Valenti and Ryan, alongside Koenig and Kelley swimming a 4:03.97 in the 400-yard freestyle relay. Saunders-Correa, Kane, Crossan, and Steinmeyer swam a 4:40.65, and Fitzgerald, Schladenhauffen, Samaha, and Germano came in at a combined time of 5:46.37.

The girls team will try to extend their winning streak to four when they face Ipswich, Thursday night starting at 8 pm.

BOYS

Wanting to get over the 500 mark, the Wilmington/North Reading co-op boys' swim team did just that last Thursday night, easily swimming past Manchester-Essex, 63-42,

in the team's third Cape Ann League virtual meet of the abbreviated COVID-19 season.

The victory pushes the team's record to 2-1 and the Wild Hornets will try to make it three wins in a row this Thursday in the next meet against Ipswich.

In the win over ME, the team's depth seemed to be the difference.

Starting with the 200-yard medley relay, Captains Henry Pelmas and Benoit were followed by Dat Tran and Ryan to swim a combined 1:53.22. In third, an all-Wilmington team of Dylan Tran, Burns, Nick Samaha, and Sheehan swam a 2:36.69.

The boys took second and third place in the 200-yard freestyle, with Dat Tran (2:23.56), and Jameson Burns, both of Wilmington (3:21.64).

In the 200-yard individual medley, Ethan Ryan of Wilmington claimed first place as he swam a 2:14.49.

Benoit took second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 27.87, and Sheehan took third swimming a 31.23.

Dat Tran swam a 1:08.7,

which earned him second place within the 100-yard butterfly.

In the 100-yard freestyle, Pelmas claimed first, swimming a 1:01.51, and the Wild Hornets will try to make it three wins in a row this Thursday in the next meet against Ipswich.

Within the 500-yard freestyle, Sheehan took first place as he swam a 8:53.46.

The boys took first and third in the 200-yard freestyle relay as Pelmas and Benoit were followed by Dat Tran and Ryan to swim a combined 1:53.22. In third, an all-Wilmington team of Dylan Tran, Burns, Nick Samaha, and Sheehan swam a 2:36.69.

In the 100-yard backstroke, Pelmas was clocked at 1:16.52, and Dylan Tran swam a 2:00.06, as they took first and second places.

In the 100-yard breaststroke, Ryan took first place, swimming a 1:07.19, and Benoit was second at 1:18.98.

In the final event, the 400-yard freestyle relay, Dat Tran, Burns, Dylan Tran, and Samaha swam a combined 6:18.78 to take first place.



Tyler Sheehan of Wilmington in action for the Wilmington/North Reading co-op boys swim meet during an earlier season home meet.



Above are the members of the Wilmington 4th Grade Blue Girls Tract team listening to the next play during a timeout; to the top right are the members of the 5th Grade Blue Girls team; below them are the members of the 5th Grade Blue Boys team; and to the bottom are the members of the 7th Grade Blue Boys team. (courtesy photos).

Wilmington Travel Basketball teams enjoying the current seasons

Wilmington Travel Basketball (WTB) has gotten off to a great start during this shortened season which began in mid-December. Eighteen (18) boys and girl's teams with over 205 players are participating in the Merrimack Valley (Boys) and River Valley (Girls) leagues with all games being held on weekends at the Millworks recreational facility in Westford.

The goal of both leagues along with WTB is to provide an opportunity for players to play games in a safe environment that follows the state of Massachusetts Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs guidance on youth sports. Each league will be playing a 9-10 game schedule with approximately one game per weekend.

The planning for the season began back in July

with WTB's Board of Directors meeting regularly to discuss and plan for a possible season. Working together with both leagues a plan for the season and game modifications were developed to ensure safety is paramount.

All of the teams and players are thankful for

the opportunity to play basketball, the game that they love during these trying times. The smiles from all of the players each week is something that is cherished as these young players continue to move forward in this current environment.



Part Six of ongoing series: *Legendary Coaches*

When you talk about legends, Gordon fits in that arena

Several weeks ago, the *Town Crier* started a 15-part series on legendary coaches at both TMHS and WHS, while several from Shawsheen Tech will be included. In Wilmington, the series started with a story on Mark (and Al) Donovan and continued with stories on Evelyn Wells Carter, Mike Pimental, Bill Ritchie and Georgia Dadoly.

In Tewksbury, we ran stories also on the Donovan Brothers and Ritchie, as well as Tony Romano, Bob McCabe and Dennis McGadden.

Below is this week's story on former Shawsheen Tech boys hockey coach Bill Gordon, who retired after the 2006 season. This story originally appeared in the *Town Crier* in the March 15, 2006 issue.

By MIKE IPPOLITO
Sports Correspondent

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BILLERICA - Shawsheen Tech hockey coach Bill Gordon saw his career come to an end at least one game too early last Friday night when his Rams were eliminated from post-season play with a tough 5-4 loss to Savio Prep in the semi-finals of the Division 3 North tournament at the Chelmsford Forum.

While Gordon, who was selected to the Massachusetts High School Hockey Hall of Fame in 2004, his player and all of Shawsheen fans would have loved to have seen the legendary coach wrap up his 27-year career with a sectional championship, it is difficult to think that Gordon went out as anything but a winner after his team's performance against a more talented Savio Prep squad that had a 3-0 lead entering the third period and will be making its third trip to the sectional championship game.

The Rams put together a furious rally and managed to tie the game in the final minutes before finally succumbing to the Spartans, but it is not the loss that Gordon will remember when he looks back on his last game as much as it will be the effort turned in by his team.

"This was a storybook season for me with these kids," Gordon said. "And they were able to send me out in the best possible manner. We did not win a championship, but the best gift they gave me all season including the last period, they had a never say die attitude that they always showed me."

"That (third period) was a gift for me. It mimicked all of the great teams we have had here at Shawsheen and all of the great comebacks we have had here over the years. That was my gift and I will hold that to the highest standard for the rest of my life, how they played in that third period because that is what we stand for."

The Rams actually did win a championship for Gordon in his last season, as they shared the Commonwealth Athletic Conference title with Hamilton-Wenham, the 15th title in Gordon's 27 years, to go along with 373 career wins, two sectional championships, two trips to the state finals and one state championship in 1984.

With that kind of success built at the Tech, it's hard to imagine what the decision to leave must have been like for Gordon, but as he has been able to do throughout his coaching career, he was able to put in perspective what it meant to be leaving the hockey arena as well as teaching position at the school where he has served as a science teacher for the past 32 years.

"If I was just a hockey coach and that was my only connection to the school, it would be more difficult," Gordon said. "But because I am a teacher first it is easier. Leaving teaching was the biggest decision that I had to make because I have always thought of myself as a teacher first."

And that focus as a teacher first is a big part of the reason that his players have not only had success on the ice, but off of it as well. You are not playing for a Bill Gordon team if you are not giving your best in the classroom as well.

"Our kids have always done a good job at keep-

ing focused in the classroom, and having as much success there as they do on the ice," Gordon said. "When I see alumni come back and they are so successful, more successful than I am, that just shows me what we are trying to accomplish here. It also speaks very highly of a tech school which does not always get the credit it deserves."

Gordon's ability to motivate his players to excel in all aspects of life will undoubtedly be his most lasting and most important legacy. As his ability to do this through generations of athletes.

"Like me, Bill is old school," said athletic director Al Costabile. "And I like that about him. But he is also shown the ability to adapt his coaching methods to today's modern day athlete. And that's why he has continued to be successful."

The majority of fans who don't know Gordon, he will always be remembered quite simply as the hockey coach who took an already successful hockey program and carried on the tradition started by Don Ayer. Gordon came to Shawsheen in 1974 after three years at St. Mary's of Cambridge, two of which he served as head coach of the brand new hockey program.

Gordon joined Ayer's staff and served as an assistant for five years before taking over the Shawsheen program in 1979. While he was an assistant, the Rams won four league titles in five years and the success continued in his first season at the helm with another CAC crown, which Gordon credits to the great program that started by Ayer.

"Don Ayer was the father of Shawsheen hockey, and he left me a terrific team," Gordon said. "Typically, when you take over a program, the cupboard is bare, but Don left me with a great team and we were able to win the league."

While Gordon was successful from the start at Shawsheen, both as an assistant and as a head coach, qualifying for the state tournament in all but two years while with



In March of 2006, then Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey coach Bill Gordon (left) coached his final game as the Rams were defeated by Tyngsboro, 5-4, in a Division 3 North Sectional semi-final game played at the Chelmsford Forum. At the conclusion of the game, he shakes hands with then Tyngsboro head coach Bryan Ronayne. (file photo/JoeBrownphotos.com).

the team, he is no stranger to being on the losing bench either.

Gordon came out of the Army in 1971 and assisted Father Tom Curran at St. Mary's in the first year of the program when they played a junior varsity schedule. Gordon took over the program in their first year of varsity play the next season in the old Catholic Conference where they took on powerhouses like Matignon, Don Bosco and Arlington Catholic, among others on a nightly basis.

In two years, Gordon's teams compiled an 0-29-1 record. But the two years also served as a basis for the Hall of Fame career.

"The good news was that I learned more about coaching in those two years than I have all in of the years since," Gordon said. "I was battle tested right away with the teams we had to face."

The lessons Gordon learned at St. Mary's as well as under Ayer at

Shawsheen, continued to pay off and reaped its ultimate reward in 1984 when the Rams went 21-0-1 and won the Division 3 state championship with a win over Dartmouth at the old Boston Garden. Gordon looked back on what a dominating team he was in command of.

"That year was certainly a life memorable experience. Those kids, much like all of my teams had tremendous work ethic. But in those years, they not only had that work ethic, but they also had tremendous skill. When you put that together, you are very tough to beat."

The Rams followed up their 1984 season with another outstanding campaign in 1985, going 19-4-2 and advancing to the state championship game again before falling to Westwood in double overtime.

"It was a typical Shawsheen overtime game where we dominated play, but could not score and ended up los-

ing," Gordon recalled with a laugh.

Those were certainly outstanding teams and Gordon has had many of them over the years, but it will be his last team that may stick with Gordon the most as he looks back on his career. His players did not know until the final regular season home game that this would be their coach's last year, as in typical Gordon fashion, although he knew he was retiring, he did not want his retirement to be the focus of the team for the entire season.

"There was a lot of emotion attached to this season for me," Gordon said. "I kept it as much of a secret as I could, and without knowing it, these kids provided me with an unbelievably successful final year. I had hoped this year would be successful as possible, but this was far beyond my expectations."

Rams dominate two more opponents, now stand at 4-0-1

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - There will no doubt be tougher games this season for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team than their two games this past week against a rebuilding Nashoba Tech team, but there is also no doubt that they are playing at the top of their game at the moment.

The Rams swept the two game set against the

Vikings, with an 11-1 win at the Hallenborg Pavilion last Thursday before following that up with a 9-0 win at the Chelmsford Forum on Saturday.

Shawsheen coach Chuck Baker knows things will get tougher for his team this season, but he can't help but be pleased with how they are playing at the moment.

"I am happy. Most of all I am happy that the kids are getting to play, particularly the seniors," Baker said. "I had a lot of young

guys getting time, but my upperclassmen led the way. It is a disappointing season with nothing to really play for, but at least we are playing and the kids are having fun while competing."

In Thursday's game, the Rams took control almost immediately, when senior forward Aidan Sullivan scored just 59 seconds into the game off an assist from sophomore forward Nick Calouro of Tewksbury to give the Rams an early 1-0 lead.

The score remained for a few minutes, until that way until the Rams scored five goals in just over four minutes to blow the game open. Junior defenseman Tom Sampson started the flurry with 11:14 left, with a brilliant unassisted goal, beating both the defenseman and the goalie with some slick moves.

He was followed in short order with goals by freshman Chase Darcey, senior forward Sean Murphy of Tewksbury sophomore

defenseman Kevin Ackerly of Wilmington and finally senior forward Anthony Papa with 7:12 left in the period to give the Rams a 6-0 lead at the end of the first.

"We came out great and took control. We had a sloppy second period, but came out and played as a team in the third," Baker said. "Overall, I was happy with the way we played. We definitely have the ability to score, from the seniors all the way down to the fresh-

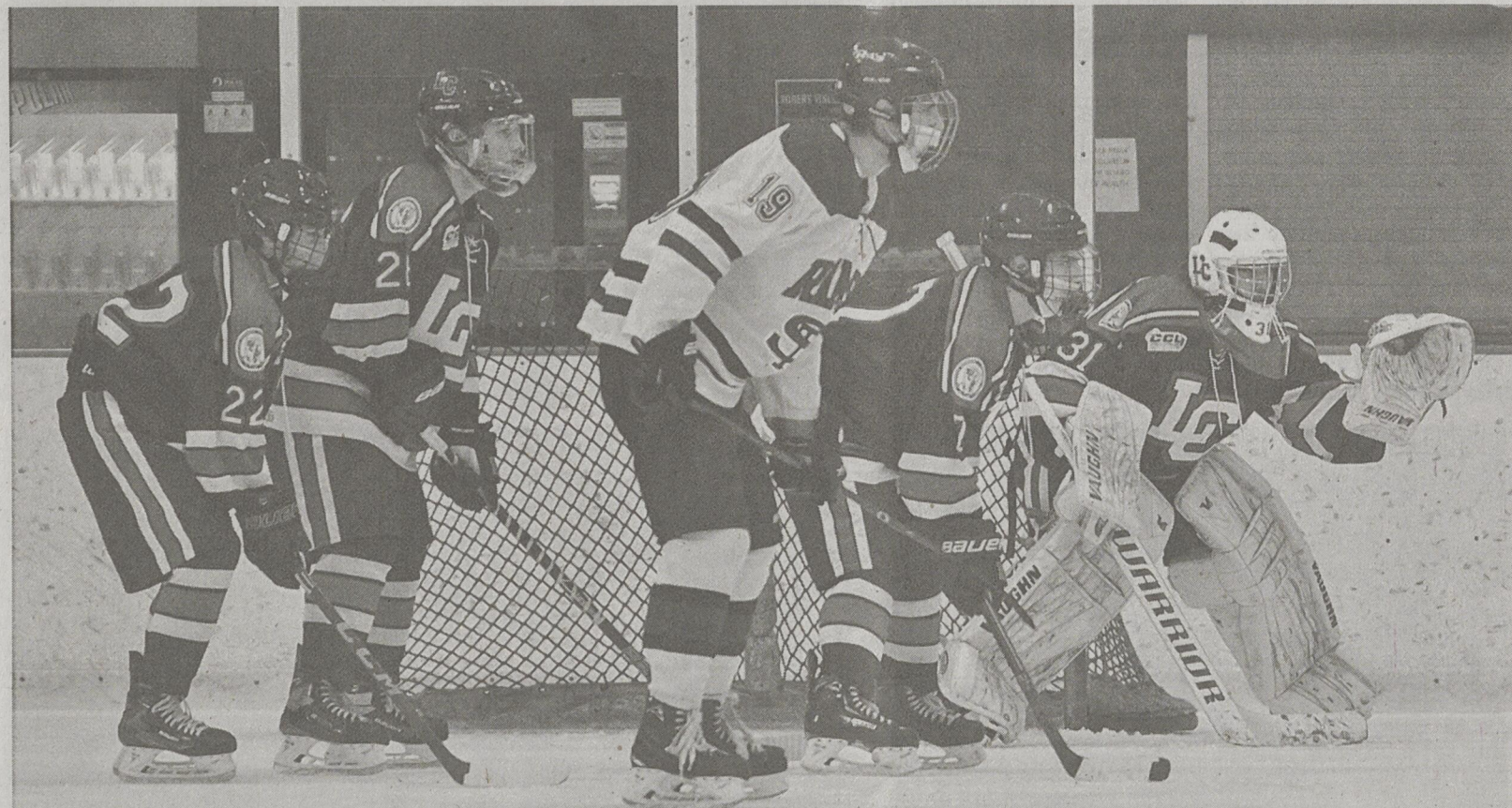
men. I just hope that it continues and they do not get over confident. We get our success from working hard."

Senior goalie Jared Palmer of Tewksbury picked up the win in net for the Rams, with Wilmington junior Tom Dalton taking over between the pipes in the third period. Palmer also picked up the win on Saturday, with sophomore Aiden MacLeod taking over in the third period of that one.

On Saturday, the Rams rolled to another impressive win, this time getting a pair of goals each from Sullivan and Murphy, while Papa, Ackerly, Brady Darcey, Chase Darcey and junior Quinn Fallon each added individual tallies. It was Fallon's first varsity goal of his career, and he also added two assists on the day.

Other assists on the day went to Sullivan, Papa, Ackerly, Ryan Dusablon and Derek Nazzaro.

The Rams will be in action again on Thursday night when they host Essex Tech at the Hallenborg, with a 7:00 pm faceoff. They will then be off until the following Thursday, February 4, when they take on CAC rival Northeast at the Hallenborg for another 7:00 pm faceoff.



Tewksbury resident Conor Preble, a member of the Shawsheen Tech Boys Hockey team, looks for a pass while Lowell Catholic players, Jake West, Jake McDonough, Joe DiGiovanni, and goalie Cody Lesko also look to see where the puck will go next. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Boys and Girls Team Preview

Both Shawsheen Swim teams just happy to be back in the water

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - Like virtually every other high school sport, there is a much different look to swimming/diving meets this season and the Shawsheen Tech Co-Ed Swim team is no different, as all meets will be held in a virtually this season as a safety precaution due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as of right now, it looks like the Rams will have only four meets this season.

But the most important thing for the Rams and coach Rick Menard is that whatever the circumstances, they are in the water and they are competing, which is more than they thought possible at times leading up to the season.

In the days leading up to the season opener last Wednesday against CAC powerhouse Mystic Valley, Menard took a few moments to not only look ahead to the upcoming season, but also to thank those who made the season possible.

"Thankfully we have such a cohesive unit between the administration, the nurse, and the trades we have been able to get off to a great start," Menard said. "All of the kids have been issued their own equipment which was a big hit on the budget but it is vital to prevent cross contamination. We have staggered the entry times so only half the kids are getting in and out of the pool at the same time."

It is more than just staggered starts that allowed the Rams to prepare for their season. It took the efforts of many people in the school.

"Our school nurse is one of our former coaches and Ms. Joyce has been the best at communicating with the kids and the families if there are Covid concerns," Menard said. "The AD's office, especially Ms. Lee worked to be sure we got our fogging equipment and sanitizing gear so we can clean after each practice and she worked with the Graphic Arts school to get all of the elaborate signage done. Lots of people use the phrase we're all in this together but this is truly an example of that...just so these kids can get into the water to have some normalcy back in their lives."

Another thing that is very normal for the Rams is that they will be led by several talented swimmers, many of them from Wilmington and Tewksbury. At the top of the list for the Rams this season, just as they have been for the past couple of seasons, will be a pair of seniors, Damien Hadden of Wilmington and Tyler Newhouse of Wilmington.

The duo will be part of the Rams 200-medley relay team, and will also each compete in several individual events, with Hadden competing in the 100-freestyle and the 100-backstroke, while Newhouse will compete in the 50-freestyle and the 100-breaststroke.

"Damien is managing his work, Marines, and swim team spectacularly and is really in great shape," Menard said. "I expect big things from him. He has been working so hard outside of the pool and it shows when he is training in the water."

"Tyler is right there with him. He really leaned out getting ready for the military and his sprint and middle distance free is going to be scary fast I think."

Junior Tyler Kopacz of Tewksbury and senior Derek Costello of Wilmington will also compete in the 200-medley relay, with Kopacz also competing in the 50-freestyle and 100-freestyle, while Costello competes in

the 50-freestyle and 100-butterfly.

Kopacz is focused on cleaning up his strokes which will pay huge dividends moving forward. One place I am excited to see is his backstroke. He has a shot at the team record before he graduates I think," Menard said. "Costello has been in an out of the pool with quarantines but still is working so hard to get back to his sprint and fly levels from last year. His focus is trying to knock down the Medley record that has been up there since 2014...it will be bitter-sweet for me. Alex Menard is on that one! If there was ever a group of kids I would like to see take it down; it's these guys!"

Several other local swimmers will also be contributing to the Rams success, including Kevin Stevens of Wilmington, along with Hannah Grimes of Tewksbury, while Rebecca Langone of Wilmington offers hope for the future.

Rebecca is showing promise but has been fighting through injury, we hope she can get healthy for next year and pick up where she left off. Kid has a huge heart and should show big gains when she can practice pain free," Menard said. Kevin has been showing a lot of leadership in the pool. Kids have been looking up to him and there couldn't be a better guy to role model after. He works so hard when he's at the pool and will be vying for some top relay spots.

"Hannah keeps up her efforts in the water and is quietly building up her abilities, this season should see a bunch of BPT with each opportunity she gets."

The Rams also have several local freshmen and sophomores who will be looking to make their mark this season and into the future, including Morgan Dunham, Jasmine Johansen, Matt Stadtman and Adam Doucot of Tewksbury.

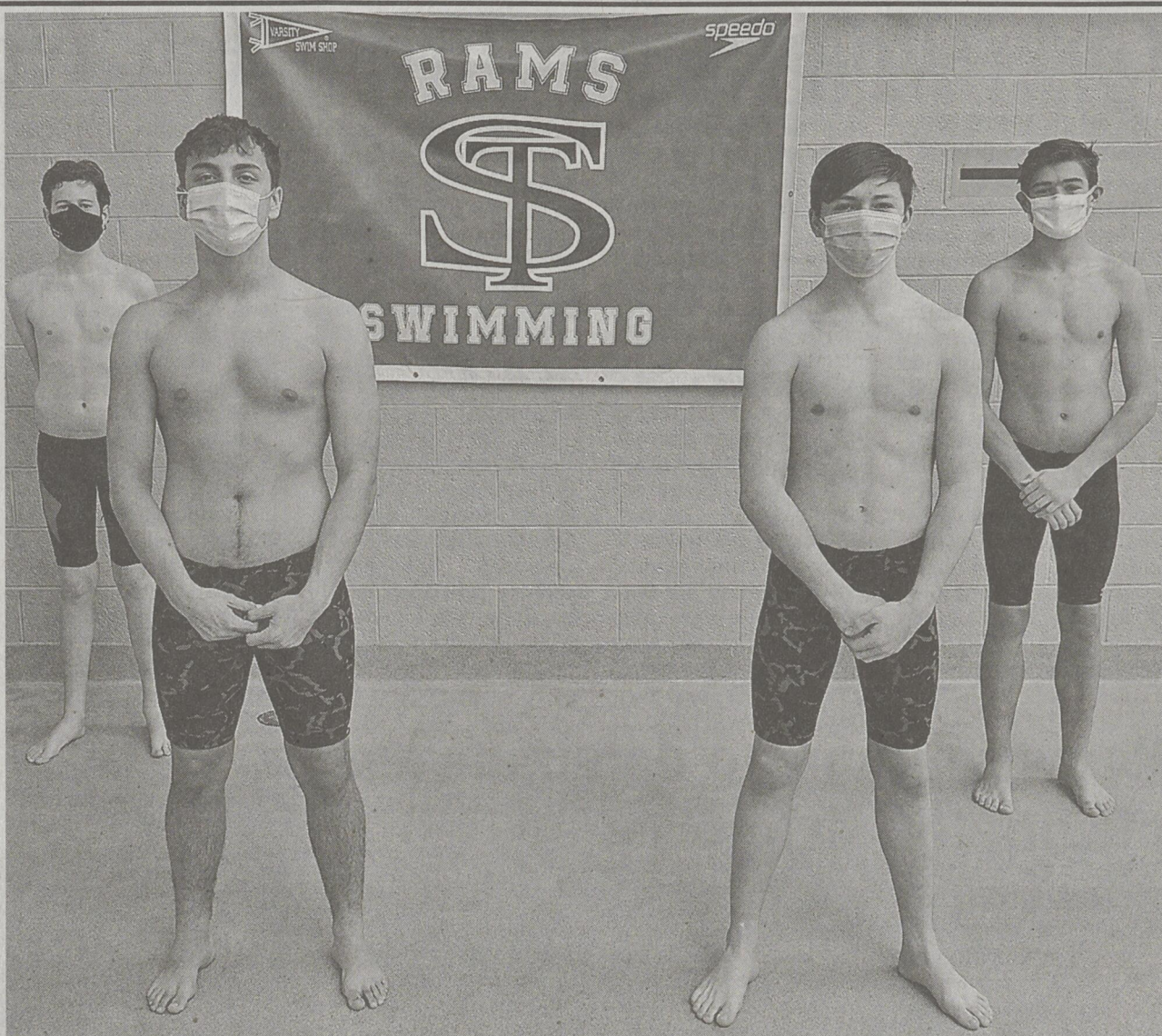
Our freshman class is pretty deep considering what we are going through with all the restrictions in the pool. Jasmine Johansen, Morgan Dunham, Matt Stadtman, Adam Doucot and Jared Krueger, all of Tewksbury.

"They are all relatively new to the sport but are picking up the skills really quickly. Jared has club level experience from when he was younger but is currently a top level gymnast. As strong as his foundation is in diving; his swimming is already gaining him attention and respect from the upper classmen who he trains with," Menard said. "He is the only freshman in the training group and is right at the top of the team when it comes to working hard. I look forward to seeing him for the years to come, especially when we have a regular season and start diving again."

With no league title to compete for this season, Menard and his coaching staff are looking to use this season as a step towards the future.

For the underclassmen we have looked at this as a re-tooling opportunity. This is a great time to look at what they have accomplished and how they want to achieve the next level moving forward," Menard said. "Our elite swimmers are looking at the Record Board and hoping to leave their mark up there while the newer swimmers are learning good stroke technique."

"We have the unique opportunity to have no pressure this season, so we can really dedicate our time to fixing some bad habits that don't get addressed as much as they could in the past."



Above, Wilmington residents from left, Evan Pinto, Rose Brady and Kevin Stevens are members of this year's Shawsheen Tech Co-Ed Swim team. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

In season opener, Rams defeated by league power Mystic Valley

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - Despite some outstanding individual efforts, the Shawsheen Tech co-ed Swim team saw their season get off to a rough start last Wednesday afternoon when they suffered a 92-72 loss to traditional CAC powerhouse Mystic Valley in a virtual meet with each school swimming in their home pool with officials at each school tracking times and results.

Unfortunately for the Rams, as good a day as several of their athletes had, it was not quite good enough to keep up with Mystic, in what has become a familiar story for the Rams in recent years.

"It was more of the same when it comes to Mystic, a big loss but we had some solid swims," Shawsheen

coach Rick Menard said. "All three of my 500's are brand new swimmers, they did amazing!"

In the 500-freestyle that Menard referred to the Rams got a second place finish from Matt Stadtman, while Adam Doucot took second and Jasmine Johansen took sixth.

Senior Derek Costello of Wilmington had a big day for the Rams, earning a second place finish in the both the 50-freestyle and the 100-butterfly, while also earning a second place finish as part of the 200-medley relay along with Tyler Kopacz and Damien Hadden of Tewksbury as well as Aiden Singh.

Hadden had a big day for himself, with second place finishes in both the 100-backstroke as well as the 100-freestyle, while Kopacz was fourth in the 100-freestyle with a per-

sonal best time of 1:04.45.

Freshman Jared Krueger of Tewksbury made his presence felt immediately with a second place finish in the 200-individual medley as well as being part of second place finishes in both the 200-freestyle relay and the 400-freestyle relay.

Junior Hannah Grimes of Tewksbury also found her way onto the score-sheet with a great performance in the 100 backstroke with a personal best time of 2:01.19, while sophomore Nathan Barnes had a great race in the 50-freestyle with a fourth place finish in a time of 28.70.

As much as Menard would have liked to see his team knock off Mystic, he was able to take something much more valuable from the team's season opening meet.

"Bigger than the final

score, other than the fact we are actually having a season, is the technical improvements the kids have been making in the short time we've had them," Menard said. "It is also a great tool to have the meets streamed and saved on our page so swimmers can go back and self-evaluate and see what we have been pointing out as coaches all along."

"I hope that we can continue to do this for our home meets, one of the small shining lights to come from our current state of life."

Shawsheen faced Gr. Lowell on Wednesday with results not known as of presstime and then after a week off, they will have a rematch with Mystic Valley on February 10th.



In its inaugural season, the Malden Catholic Girls Hockey team picked up its first win in program history this past week. The team includes from left, Susan Hobart, Sadie Bowden, Erin Smail, Juliana Anguioni (Wilmington), Antonia DiZoglio (Wilmington), Amelia Hansen, MK Zablocki, Danielle DeJon and Lexi Engvaldsen (Wilmington). (courtesy photo).

Three locals help Malden Catholic Girls Hockey team make school history

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BRIGHTON - Led by three Wilmington residents, the Malden Catholic Girls Hockey team earned the first win in program history this past week, pulling out a dramatic 2-1 win over St. Joseph's Prep/Mount Alvernia last Wednesday afternoon at Warrior Ice Arena in Brighton, evening their record at 1-1 on the season.

The Lancers, in their inaugural season as a program, suffered an 8-2 loss to Shawsheen Tech in their season opener on January 18, but responded well against St. Joe's, with freshman forward

Antonia DiZoglio of Wilmington scoring the game winning goal with 1:24 left in the contest.

DiZoglio was assisted on the goal by another Wilmington resident, freshman forward Lexi Engvaldsen, along with fellow freshman Amelia Hansen. Engvaldsen had already made some history of her own the week before in the loss to Shawsheen, scoring the first goal in program history.

The Lancers had gotten on the board first in this one, when freshman defenseman Juliana Anguioni of Wilmington scored on a shot from the point off an assist from DiZoglio with 1:40 left in

the first period. St. Joe's tied things up at 1-1 just 53 seconds into the second period, and the score would remain that way until DiZoglio's late game heroics made Malden Catholic history.

Along with the offensive fireworks, the Lancers also got an outstanding performance in net from sophomore Danielle DeJon, who made several big saves to thwart St. Joseph's threats and pick up the win.

The Lancers saw their record drop to 1-2 on the season this past Sunday, when they suffered a heartbreaking 3-2 loss to Bishop Feehan at the New England Sports Village. Junior forward Susan

Hobart scored a huge goal for the Lady Lancers with just 1:42 left in the game to tie the score at 2-2 off an assist from Engvaldsen. Feehan however, responded quickly, scoring the game winning goal with just over a minute to play.

DiZoglio scored the Lady Lancers other goal, with Hobart picking up the assist.

The Lancers will be back in action this Saturday, when they hit the road to take on Division 1 power St. Mary's, and on February 3, they will travel to the Janas Rink for a rematch with Shawsheen.

Girls slip past Northeast Tech, remain undefeated

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - With one of their games canceled, it was a very light week for the Shawsheen Tech Girls Basketball team, with their only game coming on Tuesday night on the road against CAC rival Northeast Metro Tech. But the Rams certainly made the most of their on time on the court, using a great defensive effort and a stellar fourth quarter to come away with a 43-37 victory to improve to 4-0 on the season.

The Rams and Knights

were locked in a tough battle all night long in this one, with the Rams holding a 10-8 lead after the first quarter, and Northeast holding leads of 22-21 at the half and 29-28 at the end of the third quarter. In the fourth quarter, the Rams defense, which has been their strength all season, took over while they did just enough offensively to stay perfect on the season.

First year coach Sam St. George certainly wouldn't object to seeing her team putting up a few more points, but she isn't about to quibble with her team's

relentless effort in this one, as they overcame a gritty Northeast squad.

"It was just back and forth all the way through, until about midway through the fourth quarter," St. George said. "The defense played really well all game and we will take it. It was a nice win for us."

The Rams were led in the fourth quarter and throughout the game by their senior captains Susanna Gillis and Shelby Bourdeau. Gillis led all scorers with 16 points to go along with four steals, while Bourdeau had eight points, five rebounds and

three steals. Junior Karissa Rogato also chipped in seven points to help the Rams cause.

While the game was close throughout, St. George was not surprised to see her team prevail down the stretch, given their strategy going into the game.

"They were much bigger than us, so we knew we couldn't beat them down low. We knew we had to try and run them out and I think that worked for us," George said.

"Northeast got tired in the fourth quarter, which led to us making some steals, which led to fouls on their part. You need to give our girls all the credit. We are quick and we wore them down."

Defense has been a key

for the Rams all season long, with Tuesday night's 37-point output by Northeast, being the most points the Rams have allowed all season, as their opponents have averaged just 26 points against them through their first four games.

"We focus on our defense and try to turn it into offense," St. George said. "And we also tell them that if they make a mistake on offense, you can make it up for it on defense. Most of the time that has worked for us. We have an amazing core group of defenders."

One of the tops among that core group has been guard Lindsay McCarthy, who has created numerous turnovers on the season already.

"Lindsay can pick up almost any pass, force a steal and create offense for us," St. George said.

The Rams will look to continue their impressive start to the season on Thursday night when they host Northeast in a rematch at Shawsheen Tech, before traveling to Lowell Catholic next Tuesday night. Despite their 4-0 start, St. George and the Rams will be looking to take their game to an even higher level in the coming weeks.

"We don't have a lot of time between games, but we will work on what we need to improve on," St. George said. "There are always things you can improve on, and we are hoping to continue to do that."

Rams continue to dominate and pile up the victories; now 5-0

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - Heading into the season, expectations were high for the Shawsheen Tech Boys Basketball team, and five games into the season, there seems to be no reason to lower those expectations. Nearly halfway through the abbreviated season, the Rams remain perfect, picking up two more wins this past week to improve to 5-0 on the season.

There is still plenty of work to be done for the Rams, as their schedule is heavily backloaded with the better teams in the CAC, but through five games, the Rams are not only undefeated, but with the exception of one game, a 50-47 win over Essex last Tuesday, they have completely dominated their opponents, with an average margin of victory of 31 points in four of their wins.

This past week was more of the same for the Rams, who had a relatively close 46-36 win over Essex in their rematch on Friday night at Shawsheen, before dominating Northeast for a 54-34 win on Saturday. Once again at Shawsheen, in a game that was not as close as the 20-point margin of victory would indicate.

In the win, the Rams were led by a balanced scoring attack, with sophomore Mavrick Bourdeau and senior captain Jake Tyler leading the way with 12 points each, while several other players chipped in to the offense as well. Junior forward Austin Quattrocchi added eight points to the Rams cause, while junior center Tim Sweeney of Tewksbury and junior guard Jeff Kelly added six each.

The balanced scoring was similar to the Rams performance against

Essex when they got a game high 11 points from Bourdeau, while junior captain Jeremy Perez of Tewksbury had ten points and five steals, while Tyler had nine points.

"We have been able to play with a lot of depth and it has been like that all year for us," Shawsheen coach Joe Gore said. "We would love to have one player scoring 20 points a night for us, but that is not our team. We will take this. It is great because we have multiple guys stepping up to help us."

That team effort was on full display in the win over Northeast, as the Rams raced out to 30-7 halftime lead. Northeast scored the first points of the game on a three pointer, but from that point on, it was all Shawsheen, who lead 19-3 at the end of the first quarter, with four different players scoring four points each in the quarter.

Things slowed down a little in the second quarter, but the Rams defensive intensity kept up and Northeast simply could not get any offense going. The strong defense has been a staple of this Rams team so far this season, and it is no accident.

"That is always our goal. We really focus and stress the fundamentals of defense and by doing that, it allows us to do more offensively, because we are hoping our defense helps create some offense," Gore said.

One of the players leading the way for the Rams on both ends of the court was sophomore guard Noah Rizzo of Tewksbury. While Rizzo had only three points in the game, with a first quarter three pointer, his all-around play has been a key for the Rams all season, and it has not gone unnoticed by the Rams coaches.

"(Leading scorer) James

Genetti has been out for a couple of games, so Noah has started the last two games and he has really stepped up and earned himself a spot as a real contributor to this team," Gore said. "He is following in the footsteps of Jeremy (Perez). They work well together in practice and are similar players. Neither one of them are our first or second offensive threats, but they set people up more than anybody. We have been very happy with Noah."

The Rams coasted to a 44-20 lead at the end of three quarters before taking their foot off the gas in the fourth quarter and coasting to their 54-34 victory.

With their 5-0 record in the books, the Rams will now have a long layoff, with their next game not scheduled until next Tuesday when they have a very tough matchup with Lowell Catholic.

Gore knows that the second half of the season will be much more formidable with two matchups each against Lowell Catholic and Greater Lowell, two of the strongest teams in the CAC. He and his coaching staff are hoping to take advantage of the layoff to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead, starting with Lowell Catholic on Tuesday.

"I feel like we are playing better and headed in the right direction, but we still have some work to do," Gore said. "With the layoff we will have some time to break down some film and work on some stuff to get ready for next Tuesday. It is a good break for us. It is a nice opportunity for us to work on some things and get ready for Lowell Catholic."



Shawsheen Tech guard Ella Malvone blocks a shot by Essex Tech's Tenley Mugford during a recently played home game. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

On the ice, girls enjoying a turnaround

By MIKE IPPOLITO
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BILLERICA - Four games certainly do not make a season, and for the Shawsheen Tech/Bedford Girls Hockey team, some of their toughest games still lie ahead. However, with two more wins this past week to improve to 3-1 on the young season there is no denying that there is a different feeling around the Rams this season than in recent years.

After struggling to get into the win column in recent years, going 2-32-2 over the past two seasons, including last season's 2-14 mark, the Rams look like a completely different team this season under the direction of 12th year head coach Bob Roach.

The fact of the matter is of course, that in many respects the Rams are a completely different team, with several players in just their first or second year with the team, and they seem to be adjusting to winning very well.

"Most of the kids don't even think about it," Roach said when asked about his team overcoming their history of losing seasons. "We only have one senior on the team, so most of them don't look at it as being with a losing team. They just go out there and play hockey and capitalize and score."

That was certainly the case for the Rams this past weekend, as they picked up a pair of wins, downing Arlington Catholic 6-3 on Saturday at the Janas Rink before hitting the road on Sunday and besting Boston Latin by a score of 5-2.

In the win over AC, the Rams got a hat trick from freshman sensation Lainey Meade, who also

had an assist on the day, while eighth grader Isabella King added a pair of goals and senior captain Emily Sartori of Tewksbury added a goal.

In addition to Meade, other assists on the day went to freshman Anna McEachern and sophomore Gianna Missiti. Freshman Elianna Munroe and eighth grader Kaitlyn Sacco split the duties in net to pick up the win.

Despite the lopsided nature of the final score, the Rams were locked in a tough battle for most of this one, clinging to a 3-2 lead at the end of two periods before pulling away in the third.

A flurry of goals over a span of 3:30 of the first period led to a 2-2 at the end of the first 15 minutes.

King got things started with her first goal of the game with 12:03 left, picking up a loose puck in the slot and beating the AC goalie with a sweet move to the net. AC would tie things up just seven seconds later, with 11:56 left, but a little more than two minutes later Meade scored her first of the game with a great individual effort and a nice backhand to make it 2-1 in favor of Shawsheen with 9:47 left.

AC would tie it up again with 8:35 left, before things settled down for both teams, and they would go to the break in a 2-2 tie.

It looked like the teams might head to the third period still deadlocked, but Meade had other ideas, intercepting a pass in front of the Shawsheen net, and then racing the length of the ice before beating the AC goalie low to the glove side with 6:04 left in the frame to make it 3-2.

While it was still any-

body's game at that point, the Rams quickly changed that, starting with King just 49 seconds into the period when she snapped a nice wrist shot past the AC goalie. Sartori followed shortly thereafter with a very similar goal, firing a wrist shot of her own high to the glove side for a 5-2 lead.

"Izzy is young, but she is a solid player and she knows where to go with the puck," Roach said. "And Emily, as our only senior, knows what she is doing out there. They are two very talented and smart players."

After AC got one goal back, Meade capped the scoring and her hat trick with a highlight reel slapshot from the point, snipping the puck high into the far corner of the net for a 6-3 lead with 3:41 left.

The good times continued to roll for the Rams on Sunday in their 5-2 win over Latin Academy. Meade and King added two more goals each in the win, while junior forward Amber Hurley had other goal.

While obviously pleased with his team's results so far, Roach knows that many of their toughest games still lie ahead, starting on Wednesday night against Division 1 power St. Mary's at the Janas. Results of the game were not available as of press time, but Roach was looking forward to seeing how is team measured up against the talented Spartans.

"Saint Mary's is always one of the stronger Division 1 teams," Roach said. "They've got great coaching and some very good players. It will be a good opportunity for us to see where we are as a team."



Shawsheen Tech center Tim Sweeney charges through the lane while being defended by Essex Tech's Patrick Mannion during an earlier season CAC contest. (photo by JoeBrownphotos.com).

Fitzler bounces back with a superb outing

FROM B5W

think some of that was just rust."

In the game Burlington, it appeared as if Fitzler wasn't moving as well as he did during those games as a sophomore. Sliding from post to post and going up and down, it didn't look like he had his normal agility and athleticism. Certainly all that would be understandable. About seven months after helping the hockey team into the state tournament, Fitzler was a defensive back for the 'Cats soccer team and he had his season cut short and upcoming season is hockey completely wiped out.

"We were playing Winchester. I was running down and it was a 1-on-1 and I was going for the ball. I planted my leg and a kid drilled his foot right into my knee," he said.

He tore his ACL, went under the knife about two months later.

"I was out a year and it was tough," he said. "I was still on the roster last year for hockey so I came to every game and every practice so it was good to stay connected with the team. It was tough though. I feel not having

any spring soccer because of COVID-19 definitely helped me because I was going to have to make a decision of either playing soccer, or just continue to do physical therapy and rest, so that made my decision easier."

Fitzler came back strong for this past soccer season. He dabbled a little bit with off-season hockey but not as much as he would have liked. Perhaps why his first game was tougher than normal.

"I played a little bit in the off-season, so it was a little rust but I think most of it was just nerves," he said. "It was definitely more calm coming into this game. The knee has been feeling fine, honestly. During the soccer season it was fine and I felt strong. I think that first game was just nerves."

While it may have been nerves, one thing for certain is in his second start, he was moving much better around the net, getting up and down with no problem, while also making some high-end quality saves from the start of the game all the way to the end.

Just two minutes into the

game, Melrose started out on a 5-on-3 and got one blistering wrist shot past Fitzler. Still a man up, Melrose moved the puck around at will and fired four shots on net, all turned away by Fitzler.

"Five-on-three's are not the best way to start a game, but we got through it. We persevered as a team and got three goals after that," he said.

Fitzler made 16 saves in the first 22:30 half before turning away all ten he saw in the second half. His best stop of the day came with less than five minutes on the clock and the 'Cats leading by two.

Melrose's Charlie Haggerty gave a gorgeous backdoor pass to Will Pierce, who shifted to the back post only to see his backhand get turned away by a beautiful pad save.

"I knew that they liked back door so I was kind of anticipating it," said Fitzler. "They kept trying to go back door throughout the game so I just tried to get there as fast as possible."

That save and several others in the final few minutes, helped the 'Cats come away with the 3-1 victory, the first of the season and first for

Fitzler since February of 2019. When the game was over, he sat on the same chair from two weeks earlier, again getting supported by Cedrone, but this time in much happier times.

"It's great (having Cedrone with me). I think it's better for the team. It keeps everything competitive between us and neither of us can really slack off. It's great working with him. We're friends and he's my favorite goalie partner that I've had in all of hockey," said Fitzler, who has narrowed his choices down to UMass-Lowell and RIT

and wants to study mechanical engineering, while saying his varsity sports days are most likely over.

"It was good and just huge for us to get that first win and hopefully keep the momentum going. Penalties definitely hurt us and they took a couple too which helped us. We moved the puck better today as compared to the previous games so as long as we keep that up and come focused for the next game, we'll be alright."



Above, Wilmington High senior Jason Davey skates in front of Burlington's Jack Jay and below, CJ Petrie handles the puck at the blue line for the Wildcats, both during an earlier season home game. (photos by Bob DeChiara).



Wildcats overtake Melrose, get into win column

FROM B5W

the penalty box, allowed the 'Cats as a team to settle down. Just 3:18 after Melrose took the lead, Wilmington tied it up. On a line change, defenseman Matt Pendenza took the puck up the left wing boards. He skated into Melrose end and took a quick shot which was originally saved but the puck squirted loose and Nathan Aliberti was there to pounce on it and drive it home.

Melrose followed with penalties coming with 13:31 and 9:44 left, but combined the 'Cats managed just three shots on net. Wilmington was then called for a penalty with 1:23 to go. It appeared as if the 'Cats would ride out the rest of the period holding off Melrose from scoring, but the reverse happened. Freshman Mike Daniels, who had a real strong game, blocked a shot in his end and went on a breakaway, beating the goalie to the left side on a nice move. That game winning and short-handed goal came with 11 seconds left in the period, totally demoralizing the Red Raiders.

"Michael is a big strong kid. He has good athletic

instincts. He had a strong game," said Scanlon.

Just 47 seconds into the third period, the penalty to the 'Cats expired. On the change, senior forward Jason Davey came off the bench and took a long stretch pass from Pendenza. Davey took the puck towards going towards his left and was on a 1-on-1 battle with a defenseman. He took strides towards the center of the net, pushing off the player, before finding an opening to slide the puck home for an impressive individual effort and more importantly the much needed insurance goal.

Later in the period, Melrose was called for two penalties and the 'Cats couldn't convert. Fitzler kept it a two-goal lead with a big glove/body save off a turnover. Then with over 12 minutes left in the game, senior forward Chris Bernazani broke up a D-to-D pass and went in alone but was tripped up. The officials called for a penalty shot. He took it, made a beautiful move, beating the goalie on the right side, but his high backhand shot nailed the top bar, going straight down and out.

"Tough break for Bernazani when he went in alone. He did the right thing and the puck hit underneath and went bar down and out," said Scanlon.

With under five minutes to go, Fitzler again came up big making a huge save off the stick of Will Pierce, and Wilmington was able to come away with the victory, which says a lot considering everything the team has been through over the last week-plus.

"We got shut down before the Wakefield game so we didn't skate for about four days. Then we got two practices in before we played today so we weren't all that far behind. It's never good but we are adjusting on the fly everyday now. The conditioning could be better but we're hanging in there," said Scanlon.

On top of the four days off, the 'Cats also lost senior forward and captain Peter Kourkoutas, who suffered what appears to be a season ending injury from the team's previous game with Wakefield.

"Having Peter out, hurts out because he would have been matched up with (Fennell) because Peter's

a lot more of a physical player. We switched the match-up and (Robert) Courtney was put on him and did a good job engaging him (with physical contact)."

Besides Fitzler and the three goal scorers, Wilmington also got great performances out of defenseman Matt Vinal, as well as the team's third line consisting of Aliberti with Bill Alworth and Tristan DiMeco.

"Vinal was good and solid for us. He's been a good player for us (thus far)," said Scanlon. "I thought our third line helped us out a lot. They carried play against (Melrose's) third line and that helps us stay a little bit fresher (with our other two lines) especially with the 22:30 minute halves."

Wilmington had a rematch with Melrose on Wednesday with results not known as of presstime and then will have a make up game with Wakefield on Saturday night in Everett beginning at 6:30 pm. The team will then have a week off before hosting Watertown on February 6th.

MIAA leaves door open for possible spring playoff format

By JAMIE POTE
Sports Editor

jamiepote@hotmail.com

Over the last few weeks, the MIAA has met with a number of its individual sports committees with regards to upcoming seasons or safety protocols for the current season. Last Wednesday, the MIAA Tournament Management Committee met and voted unanimously to have no sponsored tournaments for the upcoming Fall-2 season.

For Wilmington that means no potential playoffs for the football, volleyball and possibly indoor track team should that season get underway. For Tewksbury, that means no potential playoffs for football, swimming (co-op with Methuen) and then indoor track. For Shawsheen Tech, that means no potential playoff games for football or volleyball. The MIAA doesn't sanction cheerleading, so there hasn't been anything to report on that sport yet.

While the Tournament Committee voted no on playoffs for the Fall-2 season, they left plenty of hope and optimism that perhaps there could be post-season play for the spring season, which would include baseball/softball, tennis, lacrosse, outdoor track and then potentially wrestling, if that season does indeed get underway.

"I think it's time to talk to consider talking about having some sort of spring tournament," Burlington athletic director Shaun Hart said to the Boston Herald. "Because of what was lost last spring, these kids deserve some sort of spring tournament."

There was one other important topic on the agenda and that's the power rankings system, which will be put in place starting this fall season with the new state-wide playoff system. It was previously voted to have MaxPreps calculate the rankings, but the committee voted 17-1 in favor of having the Boston Globe's and former Boston Herald High School Sports Editor, Jim Clark, to compile it instead.

"MaxPreps was a starting point, but I've always hoped that we would have our own system within two years. This new power ratings system (created by Clark) came along a lot sooner," said Hart to the Herald.

The only concern to this was score differential being a factor in the rankings system. Former Rockport athletic director

Mary Ryan, "who cast the only no vote, said the Cape Ann League athletic directors liked the proposal, but wanted no part of a point differential", according to the Herald's story.

The Herald went on to say that, "Hart suggested that each sport committee could determine the actual point-differential number for their respective sport, something which could very well happen in the upcoming months leading into September."

In last week's Town Crier, we had a story about the decision that was made in regards to high school football. In a closed-door meeting, the MIAA Football Committee meeting, voted to have just eight teams from the entire state qualify for each division come playoff time. There's an average of 35 teams per division, and a rankings system will determine which eight teams get in, thus just eight of the 35 teams from the entire state in each division would advance to the playoffs.

This proposal still has to get approved by the Tournament Management Committee which will meet this week.

If it gets approved, there would be a nine-game regular season. Playoffs would start before Thanksgiving, then would be the Thanksgiving Day game, followed by additional playoff games, including the state championships to be scheduled for the first weekend in December. Teams that qualify for the playoffs would have up to as many as 13 games in a season, no less than 11.

For the teams that don't qualify, they would have an option of playing one consolation game before Thanksgiving and would not be allowed to exceed 11 games in a season. Those schools who choose not to play a consolation game, could possibly go 20-to-25 days between games from the end of the season to the Thanksgiving Day game.

In last week's Town Crier story, we quoted two tweets from TMHS AD Ron Drouin and TMHS Football coach Brian Aylward who are 100 percent against this new proposal.

"In my seven years as Athletic Director, this is the worst decision I have seen," said Drouin, while, Aylward added, "With this vote, football is going from 70% qualifying for playoffs to 23% qualifying. If they went to 16 team playoff, it would be 44% qualifying. Good teams will be left



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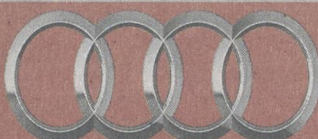
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Lifestyle

Houseplants can brighten the winter months

By HEATHER BURNS
News Correspondent

As winter lingers on, the cold and darkness of the season can have a profound effect on your mood. This is particularly true for the avid, outdoor gardener who is forced to put the joys of gardening to bed for a long winter's nap while they patiently wait for spring. One way to beat the winter gardening blues is to surround yourself with the natural beauty of houseplants.

There are many brightly blooming plants that can add a much needed touch of spring to your home during the long winter months.

If you are looking for bright blooms, Begonias come in a large array of varieties that will boast pink, white, yellow, or orange blossoms all winter long.

Kalanchoe are readily available all winter and add a bright pop of color to any room. Their color

hues range from white to bright pink, yellow, orange and red, and will continue to bloom all winter as long as you remove any dead flower to allow new growth.

African violets are easy to grow and adjust well to the drier, indoor air of the winter months. They do not like direct sunlight, and are small and compact, so they need little space and attention, but will reward you with continuous blooms.

There are also dozens of houseplants that have no brightly colored blossoms such as Dracaena, Pothos, or Spathiphyllum, but they can add a lush, green ambience to a room reminiscent of a summer's day.

When caring for houseplants of any kind, keep in mind that even though they are indoors, they can still be affected by climate changes from the winter season. To keep indoor plants happy and healthy during the colder months you will need to modify their regular care routine.

Houseplants need less water during the winter, even though indoor, winter air is typically very dry. Plants experience slower growth rates in cold temperatures and some plants go completely dormant.

Because of this reduction in growth, plants require less water to keep them hydrated.

However, winter air will dry a plant's surface soil more quickly, so surface soil moisture is not a good indicator that a plant needs water.

For a more accurate read, poke your finger an inch or two into the soil. If it is dry below the surface, then it is time to water. Avoid overwatering as it can lead to root rot and eventual plant termination.

The dryness of winter air can drop the humidity level in your home to 10 or 20 percent, and most plants prefer levels closer to 50 percent.

To raise the humidity level near your plants, start by clustering your plants

close together. Plants naturally release water through their leaves by transpiring, so grouping them together will help the plants to help themselves. You may also want to move your plants to a temporary "winter home" in your house in the kitchen or bathroom, as these rooms tend to have more moisture than the rest of your house.

Plants will also enjoy the benefits of a humidifier or just leaving a tray or bowl of water nearby to evaporate into the air.

Misting plants only gives temporary relief, and would require misting several times a day, every day, for your plants to reap any real benefits. Over misting can lead to fungal problems, so overall, misting is time consuming and may cause more harm than good.

Fluctuating temperatures can kill a houseplant just as easily as prolonged periods of heat or cold. Most plants are comfortable with a daytime temperature of 65 to 75 de-

grees, and night temperature of above 50 degrees. Avoid keeping plants near sources of cold drafts, like entryways, but also avoid extreme heat sources such as radiators, ovens, and fireplaces.

The winter months not only provide us with fewer hours of sunlight, but the sun's rays come at a lower angle. You may need to relocate certain plants to a brighter spot for the winter, or add supplement, artificial light. Move plants to a south or west facing window to provide the best winter sunlight, making sure to avoid contact with frosty window panes to avoid draft exposure.

When grouping plants together, be sure to rotate their position weekly to ensure all plant sides get even sun exposure.

For many of us, cold weather often promotes "couch potato" behavior, causing many of us to seek out a New Year's diet plan. Well, the same goes for your houseplants. Feeding your plants with fertilizers

Clustering houseplants together in the winter months helps plants to naturally raise much needed humidity levels by plants ability to transpire.

(Heather Burns photos)



Rossetti, Musto make President's List at Fitchburg

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus has announced the names of students included on the President's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

The President's List honors students for consistently high academic achievement. A student is named to the list after achieving a 3.75 average in each of three succes-

sive semesters.

Tewksbury
• Megan J. Rossetti

Wilmington
• Katelyn E. Musto

Fitchburg State University enrolls 7,000 day and evening students in more than 50 programs of study. The university was established in 1894.

17 students make Dean's List at Fitchburg State

FITCHBURG — Fitchburg State University President Richard S. Lapidus has announced the students who qualified for inclusion on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester.

A student is placed on the Dean's List for the semester if an average grade of 3.20 or better is attained, and the student is attending the university full time.

Tewksbury
• Angella S. Bankowski

• Nicole J. Beatrice
• Alyssa B. Cappiello
• James B. Costigan
• Samira M. El Hakim
• Devynn M. Fleming
• Victoria E. Fuller
• Joshua O. Kuffoh
• Marissa N. Ladderbush
• Erin L. Mader
• Isabella N. Mirisola
• Andrew J. Nunes
• Akash Ranjit
• Lauren N. Riccardi
• Derek S. Schumaker
• Erin Snow-Spinney

Wilmington
• Jake P. Arsenault

26 students receive honors at University of New Hampshire

The following students received honors at the University of New Hampshire

Tewksbury
Highest Honors: Molly Hodgson and Teagan Trant
High Honors: Timothy Morris
Honors: Jaclyn Harrington, Jordan Lemieux, Michael Monahan, and Samantha Schultz

Wilmington
Highest Honors:

Andrew Almeida, Holly Doyle, Natalie Medros, Alyssa Morrison, Katelyn Newton, and Justin Trevisani
High Honors: Christina Amato, Eric Ayvazian, Brandon Belmonte, Nicole Gianatassio, Kasey Kingman, Chloe McCauley, Molly O'shea, Cameron Pickett, Christopher Popa, and Kyle Vallee
Honors: Avery Andersen, Michael Cocco and Joseph Rebeiro

13 students named to Dean's List at Lasell Univ.

NEWTON — Lasell University students were recently named to the Fall 2020 Dean's List for strong academic performance, with a semester GPA of 3.5 or higher.

• Victoria Capone of Wilmington
• Kyra Walsh of Wilmington
• Beverly Banks of Wilmington
• Kaitlin Cummings of Wilmington
• Shawn Guiney of

Wilmington
• Leonardo Frisella of Tewksbury
• Alyssa Mercurio of Tewksbury
• Brooke Murray of Tewksbury
• Olivia Powers of Tewksbury
• Madison Gallant of Tewksbury
• Cassidy Phillips of Tewksbury
• Jacob Figueroa of Tewksbury
• Sarah Milne of Tewksbury

11 students named to Dean's List at NSCC

DANVERS — North Shore Community College Interim President Dr. Nate Bryant is pleased to announce that the students listed below were Dean's List students for the Fall 2020 semester.

Dean's List Honors are awarded to students who have earned six or more semester hours of academic credit with a Grade Point Average

(GPA) of 3.30 or higher.

Tewksbury
Amber Arsenault, Nancy Cappiello, Thomas Demasse, Paige Graham, Ashley Squillacioti, Amy Stacey-Daloia, Lauren Ward

Wilmington
Rebecca Callahan, Jenna Davey, Alaina Desantis, Lydia Waite

Three students make Dean's List at Dean College

FRANKLIN — Dean College is pleased to announce that Franceleasha Dornevil of Wilmington and Madison Clement and Alyssa Theodos of Tewksbury have earned a place on the Dean's List for the Fall 2020 semester. Students named to the Dean's List have demonstrated a serious commitment to their studies while at Dean College.

Founded in 1865, Dean

College is a private, residential college located in Franklin Massachusetts, 45 minutes from Boston, Massachusetts, and Providence, Rhode Island. Dean College offers baccalaureate degrees, associate degree programs, as well as a robust schedule of part-time continuing and professional education credit and certificate programs throughout the calendar year.



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Wilmington to keep a 'tight' budget for FY22

BUDGET FROM PAGE 1

budget is up 2.5 percent from last year with no staffing increases. Hull said that Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand talked about salary adjustments being the majority of the need, along with the expectation that most students who left the district this year would return. The Shawheen Tech budget is increasing due to the increase in enrollment there.

The biggest projects coming up are the new town hall/school administration building, the senior center, and the fire substation. Hull mentioned that the first two might come before Town Meeting soon with funding for construction, whereas the fire substation is still identifying a site.

Technology improvements will include replacing computer labs, projectors, and network switches. Other smaller items for improvement include but aren't limited to replacing town vehicles, police radio infrastructure and computers, track resurfacing, adding a sidewalk plow, replacing the ceiling tiles at the Woburn Street School, and moving an underground sewer pump above ground. They also plan to clean 15 town wells,

install sensors on Woburn Street, and pay off a remaining debt to Russell Disposal for the barrels that the town purchased for all residents.

The only personnel increases proposed are a new police sergeant and a relief custodian. Two of the many things helping to decrease costs this year were saving on legal fees and paying off the high school project debt.

All the proposed requests involve \$2,252,000 from free cash, \$555,000 for water and \$65,000 for sewer. There is also a \$750,000 cost to Chapter 90.

In his final remarks, Hull recognized the compassionate work of the police and fire personnel, the gracious help of the IT and Recreation departments, and the adaptability of services like Veterans Services, the Senior Center, and the library.

"Each one of you plays a vital role in the operation of local government," he said. "Thank you for your service."

He said it's up to the department heads and himself to make the cases for all the budget proposals to the Finance Committee starting with the first hearing the very next night. The Finance Committee will conclude

the budget hearings and make recommendations on March 16, and the entire budget will be voted upon at Town Meeting on May 1.

Several board members appreciated Hull's conservative approach for the coming year's budget. Eaton said this was a testament to their historical budgeting success.

"It struck me immediately that you kept [the budget] as tight as you could this year," said O'Mahony.

Bendel specifically mentioned the investments being made in education, public safety, and infrastructure.

In addition to thanking Hull and everyone who helped put the report together, they plugged the upcoming Finance Committee meetings and anticipated diving deeper into the budget.

"This is really the most important thing that we do," O'Mahony continued. "We want everyone to have as much information as they can."

The Finance Committee hearings will be conducted on Jan. 26 and 28; Feb. 2, 4, 9, 11, 23, and 25; and March 2 and 4. Meetings will be broadcasted live on WCTV and be recorded and put online.

Supt. proposes a \$44.8M budget for FY22

SCHOOL FROM PAGE 1

elementary scheduling committees, the vision of an inclusive environment, and professional development related to diversity and inclusion.

Assistant Superintendent Christine Elliott explained items under the Curriculum and Staff Development budget, including subscription renewals, program costs, assessment tools, and the strategic plan implementation. New things for curriculum next year will be middle school social studies frameworks, dyslexia screening software for kindergarten students, Elevate Science replacement kits, and a language word study for grades 3-5.

Other expected expenses for the curriculum budget account are the district art show, ACE curriculum, the STEM Fair planning committee, software licenses, and library conferences.

She also described curriculum supplies and materials that fall under this section, like office supplies, new staff orientation, professional development day costs, textbooks, and substitute salaries. She added that she'd like to get a better sense of the state of all the k-5 classroom libraries to determine what they need, although a lot of teachers regularly add

things to their classroom libraries out of pocket.

Brand later added that a recent grant will be put toward expanding the diversity of classroom libraries.

Director of Student Support Services Alice Brown-Legrand observed that this year had a financial impact on her department, as increased mental health needs required additional service providers and evaluations. Changes made for this year that she referenced were the Multi-Tiered System of Supports Leadership institute, the virtual caregivers series, and behavioral health supports in the reopening plan.

With the demand for services likely to continue to increase, she said they'd first look at expanding existing partnerships or shifting roles within the district before introducing extra cost. She also expects continued grant funds for the department.

The committee asked what recommendations from the Walker Report were acted upon, and she referenced inclusive practice training among others.

IT Director Ken Lorde then briefed the committee on the Information Technology Department budget. Some of the work proposed will be to purchase software and li-

censes to support remote learning and replace a number of computer labs, chromebooks, and projectors. He was asked his opinion of letting students younger than middle school take home chromebooks, and he recommended sticking to cart-based instead of the 1-to-1 program for that age.

Director of Administration and Finance Paul Ruggerio said the budget had been changed after meeting with the town manager to decrease their 2.75 percent increase to only 2.5 percent. He covered salary and non-salary changes and increases, from retirement to athletics, legal services, and electricity.

The overall budget, he reported, is \$44,815,088. This is the budget that was brought to the town manager on Jan. 25, the budget hearing on Feb. 10, and then voted upon at the annual Town Meeting in May.

The only subcommittee report for the night was a reminder for a SEFAC meeting on Jan. 28 at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom. While the committee was prepared to talk about M. J. Byrnes' response to the Education Commissioner's statement on MCAS, she suggested that they move it to their next meeting, which would be Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.

Champoux named to Dean's List at Sacred Heart University

FAIRFIELD, CT — Jacqueline Champoux of Wilmington was named to the Dean's List of Sacred Heart University with a 4.0 gpa. Jacqueline, a 2018 graduate of Wilmington High School is a junior at Sacred Heart, majoring in Communication Studies

concentrating in PR, Advertising and Digital Marketing.

About Sacred Heart University
Sacred Heart University, the second-largest independent Catholic university in New England, offers

more than 70 undergraduate, graduate, doctoral and certificate programs on its main campus in Fairfield, Conn., and satellites in Connecticut, Luxembourg and Ireland.

More than 8,000 students attend the University's five colleges: Arts & Sci-

ences; Health Professions; Nursing; the Jack Welch College of Business; and the Isabelle Farrington College of Education.

The Princeton Review includes SHU in its guides Best 379 Colleges — 2015 Edition, "Best in the

Northeast" and Best 296 Business Schools — 2015 Edition. U.S. News & World Report ranks SHU among the best master's universities in the North in its annual "America's Best Colleges" publication. SHU fields 32 division I athletic teams and

has an award-winning program of community service. www.sacredheart.edu

For additional Sacred Heart University news, please visit <http://www.sacredheart.edu/about-shu/news/>



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2018 Honda Accord EX-L Nav. H210091, Auto., Black, 41K miles	\$22,498
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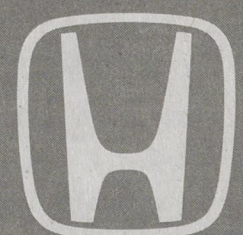
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Health Director not seeing virus spread in schools

COVID FROM PAGE 1

hony joined the health director in reminding everyone to keep washing hands, wearing masks, social distancing, and following state guidelines even after they get the vaccine.

"Just because you get the first dose doesn't mean you're immune," Newhouse added. "That's what the second dose is for."

She also said that she doesn't think guidance on masks and social distancing to be lifted for some time.

The only trend that she noticed in town was again with whole households getting COVID-19 from one family member who spreads it to the rest.

"I'm not seeing spread in schools or in the community," she continued.

She commented that two masks would provide even more protection than a single mask before Fire Chief Bill Cavanaugh took over.

Cavanaugh didn't have much to report besides helping the health department however they can, receiving the first doses of the vaccine, and staying on top of CARES and FEMA reimbursement requests.

Newhouse mentioned that all of the first responders who received dose one had signed up to receive dose two, and it would be given at the public safety building.

After the budget proposal, Town Manager Jeff Hull took the board through a number of communications regarding Textron, school playground communication boards, and the Olin Superfund Site remediation plan, among others.

The first said that Textron is selling property and will only keep building 9. The second said that Allison Bolanos is fundraising to establish communication boards on school properties.

Four communication items were related to the Olin Superfund Site. First was a letter from Chairman Jonathan Eaton to Bevin Engelward, who's part of the MIT superfund research program, responding with interest in supporting their research in order to clean the drinking water for residents affected by Olin.

Then, there was a letter from GeoInsight to the EPA with comments about their plan for the containment cap, specifically regarding their need for wider definitions, more inspections and monitoring locations, and specifically on the types of material needed. Kevin Cairra asked if Hull expected to hear back and he said yes.

There was also an update from the EPA in reference to their 46 access agreements requested with property owners, of which they have 40; and the last was EPA's letter to the Historical Commission and Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe asking if there was any indigenous or historic use of the site.

The final communications regarded a proposed Woburn Street truck exclusion to the Mass DOT and the placing of a Princeton Elm Tree on the Town Common in recognition of longtime Tree Foreman Robert Allen.

The board unanimously agreed to move the annual Town Meeting on May 1, 2021 to the Shriner's Auditorium and for the Sons of Italy to use the 4th of July parking lot for their annual diaper drive on March 27 and 28.

Announcements included congratulations to winter athletes for resuming sports and all of the upcoming Finance Committee meetings that will be available on WCTV live and on demand.

Before they could end, Cairra asked Hull to comment on the MBTA receiving a \$1 million grant for the North Wilmington substation. Hull said it appeared this was more than what they'd originally budgeted and asked Senator Bruce Tarr's office for more information.

Their next meeting will be Feb. 8 at 7 p.m.

PART ONE

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Fitzpatrick named to Dean's List at Providence College

PROVIDENCE, RI — Kate Fitzpatrick, a resident of Wilmington and a member of the class of 2021, has been named to the Dean's List at Providence College for the Fall 2020 semester. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must achieve at least a 3.55 grade point average with a minimum of 12 credits.

Saying goodbye



Michael Siciliano holds the fort as the last days of the Trump store come to an end. (photo:BruceHilliard.com)



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2017 NISSAN SENTRA SUPER BLACK exterior and Charcoal interior. 47,364 miles. WP0423	\$11,258	2015 HYUNDAI SONATA Leather Seats, Heated Rear Seat, Onboard 57,486 miles. WP0319A	\$14,665	2017 NISSAN KICKS Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, 1,009 miles Stock WP0481	\$17,483	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat. 21,209 miles. WP0431	\$19,894
2017 NISSAN SENTRA SV Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, Input 50,707 MILES. WP0446	\$11,868	2018 NISSAN ALTIMA Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth 18,231 miles. W200428	\$14,955	2017 NISSAN ALTIMA SL Leather Seats, Heated Driver Seat, Back-Up Camera 22,459 miles. WP0452	\$17,498	2017 NISSAN ALTIMA Leather Seats, Heated Driver Seat, 22,932 miles WP0472	\$19,998
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2017 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 26,463 miles. WP0404	\$12,227					2018 NISSAN ROGUE S All Wheel Drive, Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 18,009 miles. WP0486	\$19,998
2017 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, 17,428 miles. WP0433	\$13,198	2016 NISSAN ALTIMA Heated Driver Seat, Back-Up Camera 32,943 miles. WP04354S	\$15,548	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SPORT Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 22,393 miles WP0464	\$17,574	2019 NISSAN MAXIMA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio. 4,656 miles. Stock WP0435SL	\$24,965
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 21,131 miles. Stock WP0376	\$13,370	2017 Honda CIVIC LX Back-Up Camera, iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth. 9,425 miles W200732A	\$15,983	2017 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD Heated Driver Seat, Bluetooth. 30,271 miles. WP0462	\$17,958	2019 NISSAN MAXIMA S Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input 5,512 miles. WP0461SL	\$25,426
2017 NISSAN SENTRA SL SCARLETT EMBER ONLY 19,174 MILES! WP0281	\$13,327	2017 NISSAN ROGUE S Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, iPod/MP3 Input, Bluetooth 35,749 miles miles. WP0484	\$15,998	2017 NISSAN MURANO Leather Seats, Navigation, All Wheel Drive, 34,345 miles. W201004A	\$18,495	2019 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE Leather Seats, Third Row Seat, Navigation 57,631 miles, W201092A	\$29,983
2018 NISSAN SENTRA Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio 34,113 miles. W200813A	\$13,788	2018 NISSAN ALTIMA SV Back-Up Camera, Satellite Radio, Bluetooth 35,398 miles. WP0448	\$16,878	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SV AWD, Power Liftgate, Heated Driver Seat. WP0453	\$19,978	2019 NISSAN MURANO Leather Seats, Navigation, Sunroof, Panoramic Roof. 15,521 miles WP0415	\$31,857

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